

U.K. launches biggest army exercise

LONDON (AP) — An army exercise described as Britain's largest peace-time operation since World War II began Monday. It is designed to practice beefing up troops in West Germany should war threaten with Warsaw Pact countries. The Defence Ministry said that Operation Lionheart is the largest for the army since the end of the war in 1945. The first of thousands of troops and armoured vehicles were heading for the continent by sea and air. Britain has 55,000 troops permanently in West Germany. The exercise will dispatch another 60,000 to join them, 34,000 by air and 26,000 by sea. Forty thousand of the reinforcements are members of the part-time territorial army and reservists. As Britain does not have compulsory military service, there are no longer enough regular troops to provide back-up for Western Europe's front line.

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Arafat to visit Jordan soon

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Amman "very shortly" to discuss recent Middle East developments with Jordanian leaders. Palestinian sources said Monday. He will also review the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint commission which met in Amman last month to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the sources said.

8 pilgrims die in Saudi bus crash

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Eight Lebanese Muslims on a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia were killed and 18 others wounded when their bus crashed in the Saudi kingdom, the national news agency reported Monday. The government-run agency said in the report distributed in Beirut that five of the dead were from Baalbek in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon. The three other victims were from the Israeli-occupied southern third of the country. The agency gave no other details. Muslims from all countries of the world travel to Saudi Arabia every year at this time to make their pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines in the Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina.

Iraqi minister to visit Bonn

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrives Tuesday for a three-day visit in Bonn, where he can expect to hear appeals for an end to his country's war with Iran. Mr. Aziz's trip to Bonn comes just weeks after West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to Iran in July. Mr. Genscher was the first European Community foreign minister to visit Tehran since the Iranian revolution five years ago. During his Bonn visit, Mr. Aziz is also scheduled to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker.

Minehunters rescue Hungarian seaman

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. mine hunters took time off from search operations in the Red Sea over the weekend to go to the rescue of a Hungarian seaman suffering from a life-threatening heart ailment, the U.S. embassy said Monday. The mercy mission on Sunday involved two U.S. Navy ships, a medical team and three helicopters hops to administer aid on the spot in the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea's north western branch, and fly the seaman, to Cairo for hospital treatment, an embassy statement said. Disclosure of the humanitarian act came as multinational clearance operation in the vital east-west sea route entered its 18th day without turning up any mines by any of the participants — the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Egypt. The U.S. Navy's transport ship RH-33D Sea Stallion, minehunting helicopters, and the navy-leased oceanographic survey vessel Harkness have been operating in the middle sector of the Suez Gulf since Aug. 17.

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Gemayel meets Assad to break Lebanon deadlock

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel had talks with Syria's President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Monday aimed at breaking a deadlock in Lebanon's National Unity government over a security plan and political reforms, Presidential Palace sources said.

Mr. Gemayel was accompanied by Simon Kassis, director of army intelligence, and National Security Advisor Michel Samaha, the sources said. They were expected back in Beirut Monday night.

The talks followed a meeting in Damascus late Sunday night between Druze leader Walid Junblat and Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Druze radio said they discussed security and political issues but did not elaborate. Mr. Junblat returned to Beirut early Monday.

The Gemayel-Assad summit comes amid frustration among

political discussions at a meeting Tuesday.

Both sides have appealed to Damascus, which has acted as arbiter in Lebanon since formation of the government of Muslim and Christian leaders last May, and the summit is considered crucial to getting the peace process back underway.

Muslim sources in Beirut say that during recent visits by their political leaders to Damascus, Syrian leaders agreed that the Beirut government should link the army's deployment in Muslim-held areas with a start to political reforms.

They said the summit agenda would cover Lebanon's lack of progress in political, economic, security and army reforms in the two months since a peace plan went into effect in Beirut on July 4.

The two main opposition leaders in the cabinet, Mr. Junblat and Shi'ite militia leader Nabih

Berri, have bitterly criticised Mr. Gemayel and what they call his "regime" in the past few days.

On Saturday Mr. Berri said "the government has not achieved anything at all" during its four months in office, despite its pacification of the capital.

It had failed to rebuild the army, introduce political reforms or promulgate a new defence law prepared by the military command, he said.

"Right now the whole of Lebanon is like a hijacked plane that is still flying but its fuel is running out..."

"The fact is that we are neither in a truce nor in a state of lasting peace. We are oscillating between a state of half peace and half war," Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Junblat Sunday called government efforts to extend its control beyond Beirut "a waste of time," and attacked the Falangist Party to which Mr. Gemayel formerly belonged as "fascist."

PLO factions to continue efforts for reconciliation with Syria

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Senior officials of factions in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who concluded a two-day meeting Monday in Algiers, decided to meet again after ten days in an effort to give a chance for a fresh Algerian-South Yemeni mediation effort to reconcile the PLO leadership with Syria.

Senior PLO officials in Algiers told the Jordan Times that Algeria and South Yemen had tried to persuade four-Syrian backed Palestinian dissident groups to join a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue prior to the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

According to a political and organisational agreement ratified in Algiers last July by Fateh, the mainstream, Palestinian commando group, and a faction "democratic alliance", the PNC is to be held in September after a "comprehensive political and organisational agreement" among Palestinian factions.

However, all efforts to fix a final date for the PNC have failed so far due to the rejection of the Palestinian dissidents, who function within the framework of a "national alliance", to join in a dialogue with the central committee of Fateh and to the failure so far of Arab and international efforts to reconcile the Fateh leadership with Syria.

Well informed Palestinian sources in Amman, however, Monday told the Jordan Times that Syria has informed Algiers that it will pressure the "national alliance" to enter a dialogue with the central committee of Fateh and hence attend the next PNC session.

The "national alliance" includes Saika, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), rebels within the Fateh movement and the Popular Struggle Front.

A Damascus-based "democratic alliance" official told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that the decision to adjourn the meeting stemmed from the five factions' desire "to reconcile Fateh with Syria" before the convening of the PNC and to

avoid a split in the PLO.

The official, who asked not to be named, said that the five factions "will strive not to delay the PNC under any pressure unless there are guarantees that the national alliance will enter a direct dialogue with the Fateh Central Committee."

Ever since last June, the "democratic alliance", which groups the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front, had been engaged in a series of painstaking talks with the "national alliance" to join in a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement. But the talks reached a deadlock because the "national alliance" stipulated the ouster of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as a basis of such a dialogue; a condition which is vehemently rejected by the Fateh Central Committee chaired by Mr. Arafat.

The "democratic alliance" believes that the future status of Mr. Arafat should be decided at the PNC.

Phase 1 of Iraqi oil pipeline to end in 1986

BAGHDAD (R) — The first phase of an Iraqi oil pipeline to carry crude to the Red Sea Port of Yanbu will be completed early in 1986, according to a senior Iraqi oil official.

Oil Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul-Moneim Alwan also told the magazine Hurras Al Watan that the line's capacity would be 500,000 barrels per day (BPD), linking the southern Iraqi terminal of Fao, closed by the Iran-Iraq war, with a trans-Saudi pipeline already in existence.

The second stage of the project, involving a new pipeline independent of the Saudi line, is expected to boost Iraq's oil export capacity by about 1.6 million BPD.

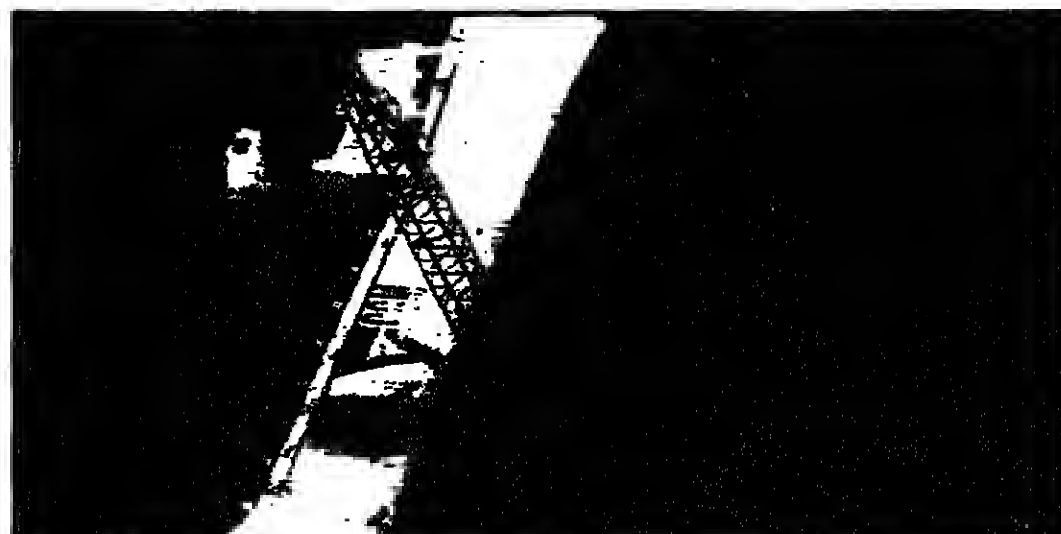
Iraq's current oil exports through a pipeline across Turkey to the Mediterranean are running at about one million BPD.

Meanwhile tankers are continuing to call at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, although traffic has slowed over the past month with customers balking at prices charged for Iranian crude, Gulf oil traders said Monday.

They dismissed press reports that Iran had closed the terminal until Sept. 10 to repair severe damage to jetties caused by Iraqi air raids.

One trader said he had been in touch with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Monday, and was assured Kharg remained open to tankers.

In London, Lloyd's list also carried a denial by NIOC officials that Kharg was closed.



SALVAGE UNDERWAY: The partially submerged French freighter Mont Louis, lies in shallow waters off the Belgian coast Monday with a three by six metre hole in the side to lift out 30 containers filled with highly toxic uranium hexafluoride (AP wire photo)

Peres says Israel may hold new elections to solve political deadlock

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said Monday new elections may be needed to solve Israel's six-week political deadlock after efforts to form a national unity government with the right-wing Likud suddenly collapsed.

Mr. Peres told army radio in an interview that he would approach the heads of small religious parties again to see if they would consider entering a narrow-based coalition with Labour.

Three days ago Mr. Peres and caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Party, who have been negotiating since July's general election, ended in stalemate, reported they were close to agreement on a unity coalition.

In a dramatic turnaround Sunday, Mr. Shamir made new demands and negotiations broke down.

Mr. Peres, clearly angry, told army radio: "If there is not a surprising change (by Mr. Shamir), I fear a national unity government will not be formed."

Mr. Peres warned that Israel's economic plight was catastrophic and said he would ask the religious party leaders, who control 12 pivotal parliamentary seats, if they wanted to take responsibility for new elections.

Mr. Peres said he would ask them: "If you think the country can stand new elections, fair enough."

Newspaper reports said Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir had discussed taking turns to be prime minister, each serving 25 months.

Mr. Shamir, under pressure from Likud hawks, asked Sunday that the post be rotated every year.

Mr. Peres Monday termed the idea ridiculous and said it would reduce the prime minister's status to that of a minor official.

In a separate radio interview, Mr. Shamir defended his action, saying there had been "nothing

sacred" about the original unity coalition proposals and Likud wanted changes.

Local press reports said Mr. Shamir toughened his negotiating stance after running into strong criticism from Likud politicians at a heated party meeting.

Likud, which gained three fewer seats than Labour in the July election, is demanding that the next government continues the Jewish settlement drive in occupied Arab land.

Labour won 44 seats in Israel's July 23 election — more than any other but not enough to permit Mr. Peres to form a 61-seat parliamentary majority with the party's natural allies.

He has the committed support of enough small parties to give him 54 seats.

Mr. Peres met Monday with leaders of the uncommitted four-member National Religious Party to seek its support.

2 Lebanese killed in Istanbul explosion

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Two Lebanese nationals were killed in Istanbul when a Lebanese-registered car exploded in the city-centre early Monday, police said.

Police said it was believed a powerful bomb caused the explosion which wrecked the car and several others in a parking lot.

A police source said the two dead were carrying Lebanese identity cards but he would not give their names. The sources said investigations are continuing.

Meanwhile in Stockholm, Sweden, an alleged spokesman for the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA) claimed responsibility for "several bomb attacks" in Istanbul early Monday in an anonymous telephone call to the Associated Press.

The spokesman read a communique which said the group "has carried out several bombings in Istanbul against governmental institutions on Monday" and would continue its attacks against Turkish targets all over the world. He did not give any further details.

The ARA claimed responsibility for the July 1983 attack against the Turkish embassy in Brussels, where the spokesman said "a Turkish diplomat was executed," and "the suicide attack" the same month at the Turkish embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. The latest bombing occurred in Vienna last month, the anonymous caller said, without giving any details.

On behalf of the ARA, he also accused the Turkish government of genocide in 1915, when he said 1.5 million Armenians were killed after being harassed by the Turkish authorities.

The ARA had no choice but to "continue and intensify its political struggle" since the Turkish government refused negotiation and cooperation, he said.

The anonymous ARA spokesman said the aim of the armed struggle was to enable exiled Armenians to return to Turkey. The number of Armenians currently living in Turkey amounts to 100,000, he said.

Israel improves defences in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli chief of the army engineering corps said Monday Israel was spending between \$12 and \$18 million to improve its defences along the confrontation line with Syria in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Israel Radio said.

Brig-Gen. Yehuda Cohen told the radio that Syria was increasing its presence in the area and Israel had to respond by building new installations there.

"The Syrians are strengthening themselves by adding forces, by adding obstacles, minefields, ditches and so on," he said. "We have to give the proper answer and are in the middle of a major engineering project which we hope to finish by winter."

Israel has already mounted sophisticated surveillance devices on Jabal Barouk mountain ridge, which allows it to monitor movements in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Syria. Its artillery is dug in within range of Damascus.

The Israeli army would need four to six months to dismantle its equipment and fortifications in Lebanon if the government decided to withdraw, the army's chief engineer said.

Lacking a withdrawal decision, the army was adding extensive fortifications all along the Syrian front in eastern Lebanon, Gen. Cohen said.

Israeli military sources say that Syrian troops have not tried to breach Israel's defences, but that Palestinian commandos operating from behind Syrian lines often have infiltrated Israeli-held territory.

The Israeli government has said it will withdraw all troops from Lebanon as soon as it can adequately secure Israel's northern border, but has refused to put a deadline on withdrawal.

Speaking with a Lebanese accent, the caller read a statement saying: "It is of no avail for you, the sons of Saud, to use the pretext of disorder in Islamic Beirut to pull out your representative."

"The alleged disorder is in fact only the beginning of an Islamic uprising which will initially spread to the oil (producing) and sinful countries."

Anonymous callers claiming to represent Islamic Jihad have in the past 18 months claimed responsibility for several devastating attacks on U.S. and French diplomatic and military installations in Lebanon.

Mission withdrawal will not affect Saudi commitment to Lebanon, page 2

Khasawneh defends his management of APC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The former chairman and director general of the Arab Potash Company (APC) has defended the present management of the company of trying to put the blame on him for shortcomings and problems that apparently caused the company to lose nearly JD 19.2 million in its first year of operations.

Mr. Ali Khasawneh said in an article he wrote in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab and published Sunday that when he tendered his resignation as company director general and chairman of the APC's board of directors there were no unusual problems left behind and he voiced his surprise at the trouble the new management was trying to raise through its members, as he said, have not yet, except once, inspected the work at the company site, south of the Dead Sea nor have they looked into the activities and programmes of the company.

Mr. Khasawneh accused his successors, without mentioning any names, of trying to tarnish his name without giving him the right of reply over questions of planning and budgeting. Former Public Works Minister Awmi Al Masri took over from Mr. Khasawneh as chairman while the director-general job went to former Trade and Industry Minister Ali Nsour. "I call for an open debate on television or radio to be attended by experts from Jordan and other countries to discuss with me subjects pertaining to the APC project in the past and the present in order to clear misconceptions," Mr. Khasawneh said in his article. He added that the new management has raised a storm about the behaviour of the former administration without due cause and

without looking into the affairs of the company.

"So far not a single instance of misconduct has been established against the former management and, on the contrary, the new management has not taken any steps designed to promote the work of the company and its projects," Mr. Khasawneh contended.

He said that any losses incurred by the company should be blamed on the new management which had allocated as port fees JD 4 million annually for exporting potash, which means spending over JD 14 on every tonne of exported potash, though a feasibility study conducted by the government recommended that only 700 fil be paid for every tonne. Mr. Khasawneh cited the example of the Jordan Phosphates mines company which he said has been paying 700 fil per tonne over the past 30 years. Mr. Khasawneh also contended that the new management has added an amount of JD 12 million to "already inflated figures" to increase "capacity" to 1,300,000 tonnes, but he did not give much more details on this point.

The former APC chairman opposed any additional expenditure on the project saying: "The project, as it is now, is capable of producing enough (potash) to meet figures mentioned in its feasibility study". The present capacity of the potash plant is 900,000 tonnes.

Mr. Khasawneh said that he had resigned his post because the cabinet had divided the two posts of manager and board chairman and he thought it would not be fit to keep the post of APC director-general after the board chairmanship has been taken away from him.

Mohammad visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday visited the Public Security Directorate (PSD) where he met with PSD Director General Lieutenant General Diab Youssef and listened to a briefing about the progress of work at the PSD.



MILITARY MATTERS:

His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces continued his field tours of the military formations Monday when he visited one of the formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division. The King was briefed by the formation commander about the tasks and duties entrusted to the formation. The King also toured a

number of the formation's units where he was briefed on the training programmes and military exercises. King Hussein expressed his satisfaction with the high standard of the units. The King also congratulated the officers and soldiers on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha and wished them continuing success. Accompanying the King on his visit was the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Irbid complex contract signed

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement for building a market for the Civil Service Consumers Corporation (CSCC) in Irbid was signed Monday between the CSCC and the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS).

Under this agreement the JESORS will carry out the project for a CSCC market in Irbid on an area of 2,500 square metres at a

total cost of JD 275,000. The project comprises two shops, the first for foodstuffs while the second is for clothes. Each will have an area of 600 square metres. In addition, a large store, offices, utilities and car parks will be constructed. CSCC Managing Director Jameel Farahneh said that the corporation's project is expected to be completed within 12 months from the signing date of the agreement.

He also pointed out that the Irbid market project is the first of several markets which the CSCC is planning to set up in the country in order to achieve its goals and to serve beneficiaries in the best way.

The agreement was signed by CSCC Director General Nabil Abu Al Huda and JESORS Director General Sami Al'Ammer on behalf of its board of directors.

Crime rate escalates by 16 per cent

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thefts, robberies and other crimes increased in Jordan during July 1984 by 16 per cent over those committed in the same month of last year, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department.

The bulletin said that in July this year, a total of 1,846 crimes were committed compared with 1,591

in July 1983. It also said that crimes committed in July registered an increase of 40 per cent over those committed in the previous month. Most of the crimes were thefts, robberies and personal attacks.

The report said there were 1,494 road accidents in Jordan during July which caused the death of 73 people and the injury

of 820 others. July 1983 registered 1,368 road accidents which caused the death of 69 persons and the injury of 800 others.

The bulletin also said that during July there was one murder in Amman, two others in Ma'an and Karak and three cases of manslaughter which occurred in Amman, Zarqa and Balqa.

Jordan heads advisory commission meetings in Vienna

Delegates request UNRWA to resume refugee rations

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Assistant Under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and Deputy Head of the Jordanian delegations to the meetings of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Advisory Commission Usama Tahboub Monday said that Arab delegations had called on the UNRWA commissioner general to reinstate the distribution of rations to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as well as in the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.



Usama Tahboub

Mr. Tahboub was speaking to the Jordan Times after his arrival from Vienna where he attended the four-day meetings of the UNRWA Advisory Commission which started on Aug. 30.

Mr. Tahboub also said that the Arab delegations called on the Commissioner General of UNRWA to relocate the agency's headquarters to Lebanon or, if this is not possible, to Amman. They also requested that UNRWA appoints local staff in

lieu of international personnel because local staff have proved efficient, according to the report of the joint inspection unit which visited the area in 1982.

During the meetings, Mr. Tahboub added, participants discussed the draft annual report of the Commissioner General, in preparation for submitting it to the United Nations General Assembly for debate during its regular session, to be held at a later date this month.

Jordan's delegation to the meetings comprised Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, Jordan's permanent representative in Geneva, Mr. Khalil Sawahri, the director of the studies department at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and Mr. Issam Daghistani from the ministry.

The Advisory Commission of UNRWA groups Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Japan and Turkey.

WAJ to attend Arab water resources talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) will take part in a four-day meeting of a working group in charge of drawing up the principles and guidelines for evaluating the water resources situation in the Arab World. The meeting will be held in Paris on Sept. 10.

Representing the WAJ in the meetings, to be supervised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will be the assistant director of the water department, Mr. Badr Hirallah.

Obeidat issues diplomatic, tender regulation circulars

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Monday issued a communique instructing all ministries, government departments and public institutions to contact the diplomatic missions accredited to the Royal Court through the Foreign Ministry.

The new procedure aims at facilitating work relations between the government ministries, departments and public institutions and the missions, in accordance with the proper procedures, in order to save time and to define responsibilities, the communique said.

The prime minister Monday also issued a circular to all gov-

ernment ministries, departments, public institutions and large companies, in whose capital the government has a share of no less than 25 per cent, asking them to fully abide by the government Works Regulation No. 39 for the year 1982.

The communique also said that all tenders and invitations to tender should be announced publicly, studied and evaluated in order to give equal opportunities to all qualified parties to bid for the implementation of projects, in accordance with the classification table issued by the government Tenders Department.

Innovative marketing, varied programmes boost tourism to Petra

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA — There is something about south Jordan and Englishmen that seems to blend well. Perhaps it's the ample noontime sun, or the rich legacy of thousands of years of history that Englishmen can so readily appreciate.

In the early and mid-19th century, a succession of English travellers ventured into the area of Transjordan, discovering and exploring the varied antiquities of the land. An Anglo-Swiss traveller, Johann Burkhardt, "rediscovered" Petra for the Western world in 1812. And a century later, of course, there was that other famous Englishman, Lawrence, who made quite a reputation for himself in the terrain of south Jordan.

Today, yet another Englishman has started to make his mark on the land of south Jordan, striking a delightful blend of fantasy, practicality, romanticism and innovation that should leave its mark on the Jordanian tourism sector for many years to come.

If Burkhardt rediscovered Petra, and Lawrence helped the forces of the Sharif Hussein of Mecca free it from Ottoman control, Bill Trustram Eve may help establish it permanently on the map of the world's great — and well-served — tourist sites.

Bill Eve is the general manager of the Petra Forum Hotel, the 82-room four-star hotel that opened its doors a year ago — and has not stopped experimenting and innovating since.

The hotel is owned by the Jordanian government, via the Hotels and Restaurants Corporation, but it is managed under contract by Forum Hotels, the four-star subsidiary of the Intercontinental chain.

In the past year, the quality of

the hotel and Mr. Eve's lively new ideas have started to stimulate new domestic and international tourist markets that Jordan rarely tapped before. He has also started to attract tourists to Petra from around the Middle East, by actively promoting its attractions in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

Commendable initiative

As such, the brief experience to date of the Petra Forum Hotel's marketing and service strategy may cause other hoteliers, travel agents, airline executives and tourism officials to see the possibilities that could be realised if Jordan's rich tourist attractions were fully exploited and imaginatively marketed.

Petra has traditionally attracted day visitors, who made the round-trip from Amman or Aqaba, spending only a few hours within the mountain-ringed ancient ruins of the sprawling Nabataean capital city. The old resthouse catered to those dedicated Petra enthusiasts who wanted to spend a night or two in the area, particularly to enjoy the rare splendours of an early morning entry into Petra through the siq. But the standard of rooms, facilities and service at the old resthouse was just adequate, and the overnight visitor was offered nothing more than basic room and board.

The government seemed to recognise that something was lacking, and therefore decided to build the new four-star hotel, with financial backing from the World Bank. In its first year of operations, the Petra Forum Hotel has started to demonstrate the country's potential for drawing new visitors to its biggest sites, and to bringing back previous visitors for longer stays.

Tourists on the increase

Individuals account for 60 per

cent of the hotel guests, and groups the remaining 40 per cent, with non-Arabs accounting for 90 per cent of all guests. The significant new market that Mr. Eve has managed to start tapping is the vast community of foreigners living and working in the oil-producing states of the Arabian Peninsula.

He has made several sales trips to Saudi Arabia with Petra antiquities Inspector Niaz Shabaan, resulting in a regular stream of groups of expatriates who come to Petra for three-day trips. Many of these expatriates used to go regularly to Cyprus, but now also come to south Jordan. Besides enjoying the pleasant Petra weather, the antiquities, and the hotel's facilities, including a swimming pool, the guests often also visit Wadi Rum, Aqaba, and the King's Highway sites.

Groups arriving from northern Saudi cities by road, for example, are met at the border by bus or taxi and driven directly to the hotel. Similar arrangements can be made to meet groups flying in to Aqaba airport.

New offerings

The key to promoting new visitors to Petra, however, seems to lie not only in the availability of a competitively priced first class hotel (at rates of JD 15,400 for a twin room and JD 12,100 for a single), but also in the range of new services that the hotel has launched. Mr. Eve's imaginative English spirit has combined with the vast physical resources of the Petra area to provide hotel guests with a range of exotic options, including:

— sunrise continental breakfast at the High Place of Sacrifice, a 25-minute climb from near the theatre inside Petra.

— a picnic or mansaf lunch in a cave ten minutes beyond the Monastery, (a 45-minute hike from the museum in central Petra), a spot that Mr. Eve describes as "just around the corner from the edge of the world". The lunch is carried up to the cave on the back of a reliable donkey named Forum. Evening dinners at full moon are also arranged at the Monastery.

— picnic lunch, guided tours, and coffee and tea with the local bedouin the Beidha-Barid region, 10 minutes by car north of Petra. Beidha is a 9,000-year-old Neolithic village that was excavated, appropriately, by the noted English archaeologist Diana Kirkbride. Siq Al Barid is a miniature Petra, complete with its own siq entrance and rock-cut tombs, caves and high places.

— a guided tour and picnic lunch at Aaron's Tomb, the high-



Visitors enjoy a continental breakfast at the High Place where sacrifices took place in the city of Petra (Photo Rami G. Khouri)

heat peak overlooking the Petra region, and a rigorous two-hour climb from the centre of the city.

— lunch and a tour of nearby Shobak Castle, one of the several Crusader castles in the Petra region. A "Crusader banquet" lunch is laid on in a room open to the sky.

— on selected evenings, an authentic bedouin tent permanently set up on the hotel grounds is transformed into a lively entertainment and dining facility, with the Wadi Mousa folkloric troupe performing a variety of local songs and dances.

— the more adventurous visitor who wishes to wander further afield from the city of Petra itself now has the option of renting four-wheel-drive Suzuki jeeps for a half or full-day outing, or taking one of the Petra horses for a leisurely gallop around the surrounding hills and tracks.

The latest marketing twist, expected to start within a few months, will bring groups of horse-riding tourists to spend a week in the Petra region, using the available horses, to "follow the ancient spice route" north of Petra. A French travel agency specialising in horse-back riding tours will launch the campaign this autumn. The groups will camp out en route during their riding trips north of Petra.

New approach

Another marketing approach geared to domestic tourism has been a joint offer with the JETT bus company to promote two-day, overnight trips from Amman. For JD 26, a visitor gets roundtrip bus transport from Amman to Petra, a night at the hotel, lunch and dinner the first day, breakfast and lunch the second day, and the horse and entrance to Petra.

The presence of the new restaurant and snack bar within the

Badran exhibits delightful array of decorative applied arts, crafts

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition of the craft work by Jamal Badran at the Royal Cultural Centre this week is one of undiluted pleasure for everything from the tiny arabesque designs on the handpainted glassware to the gilded gazelles etched into leather, has been executed with meticulous and painstaking care as well as with creativity and flair. The care that Badran takes over his artifacts does not stop with the articles themselves but also extends to their display and layout.

Badran, a 75-year-old mastercraftsman proficient in many skills, now mainly concentrates his talents on producing fine hand-painted glass and lamps. The glassware itself comes from the Hebron glass factory and on the pieces he selects, usually long elegant shapes in shades of rich blue, he paints his intricate Islamic designs.

Although based on original patterns, Badran never copies but creates his own individual designs that incorporate calligraphy, geometrical patterns in bright colours, curving intertwining flowers and even sometimes birds and leaping gazelle.

The same kind of designs are used on his parchment lampshades which glow with a warm yellow light over their olive wood bases. These Badran carves and decorates himself. Often the whole stand is covered in delicate floral designs but sometimes areas of the wood are left, with the gleam of the polish enhancing its natural beauty.

The exhibition, however, consists of much more than these pieces. By means of drawings and designs, by displays of tools and plaster casts, it documents all the different facets of Badran's long and productive professional life.

Islamic decoration

The crafts Badran has been principally involved with have been those which incorporate Islamic decoration. One of his major projects was the redecoration of the famous and very beautiful Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. In 1969, the minbar of the mosque was burnt and Badran was commissioned to redecorate it; a project that took him five years to complete at the end of which time he had drawn 31 plates perfect in every detail, like the one that opens the exhibition, in the original size. Badran also prepared

the drawings for the missing parts, constituting some 23 metres of the ceiling of the mosaic inscription in the mosque. Some of his Kufic designs, based on the kind of calligraphy that had been used before, are also on display.

More recently Badran designed and supervised the decoration of the interior of the Jordan University Mosque here in Amman. The drawings he executed for the minbar are exquisite freehand but accurate sketches, covered all over in spidery writing which make the drawings look like old and very valuable manuscripts, which indeed one day they will become.

Badran also designed the calligraphic mosaic work that encircles in blue, gold and white the rising turquoise interior of the dome and the heavy brass door handles that are in perfect keeping with the rest of the interior.

Badran's new and latest projects include the study of the decorations for the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, and the writing of two books; one on traditional embroidery designs, pages of which are on display showing the old patterns and the new ones Badran has developed from them. Another book documents all the different techniques involved in the making of Badran's many and various artifacts. The book will be illustrated with step-by-step photographs.

A graduate of the College of Applied Arts in Cairo in 1927, Badran then went on to the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and many examples his work from there are on display, including some of his designs for the inside pages of hand bound books. Called marbling, no doubt because of the effect they create

these designs are intricate in the utmost as they flow both in shape and tone across the page.

Books, textiles

Also on display are some of the books Badran has bound himself, his favourite being a book on book binding which he covered in beautifully etched and gilded leather and whose page edges he gilded and stamped with a tiny floral design.

Also at this time Badran used to make textile designs which the college encouraged him to sell to manufacturers. The designs he made then are surprisingly modern, simple but striking freehand patterns of white on black that have a tremendous appeal.

For many years Badran passed on his skills, first as the senior arts and crafts teacher at the government Arab College in Jerusalem (1930-1948), then as the supervisor of arts and crafts at the men and women training colleges in Damascus (1948-1952) and more recently as the UNESCO arts and crafts expert in Tripoli, Libya (1952-1962).

He taught his students, among other things, how to make their own etching and modelling tool kits from easily available materials (nails, old comb handles) and how to get many different thicknesses and textures of paint from one brush.

In the future Badran wants to show people how to blow glass and enamel it. In the meantime however as well as all his other work and projects Badran will continue to run his arts and crafts studio in Ramallah.

The exhibition continues until Sept. 6.



Guests at the Petra Forum Hotel take a dip in the hotel's outdoor swimming pool (photo Rami Khouri).



One of the handpainted exhibits of Jamal Badran

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Who pays the price?

THE CONTINUED American silence on Israel's political circus, that is conveniently called the coalition-building process, hampers not only the Middle East peace-making efforts but also jeopardises U.S. long-term strategic interests in the area. Unless Washington is prepared and willing to throw its weight behind those who genuinely seek an Arab-Israeli settlement, now rather than later, the cause of peace becomes but a hopeless case.

Everybody has heard of the Reagan administration's "disappointment" over the Labour party's failure to regain power in Israel. All are aware that this is too sensitive a time for any U.S. administration to meddle into Israeli politics. What with the fear of internal backlashes during an election campaign at home. But do the Americans not realise the need to exert more effort, even change tactics, in order to influence the course of events in the Middle East, in a direction that truly serves the cause of peace and stability?

The Washington Post, in an editorial last week, questioned the wisdom of the State Department's policy in contemplating a new U.S.-Israel tradeoff where extra American aid would be given the Israelis in return for economic reform. It asked whether this would end up meaning anything more than open-ended American subsidies, and whether the U.S. really needs "to insert itself that much deeper into the life of a country with which it already has exceedingly complex ties."

"If U.S. aid is to be tied to Israeli policy," why not tie it to Israeli foreign policy, which is more appropriately and urgently an American concern?" the newspaper asked.

Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser, was boasting the other day of how much money his administration gave Israel, \$9.5 billion to be precise. He spoke about the strategic pact, the free trade agreement, the high technology memorandum, the state-of-the-art manufacturing technology made available for the development of Israeli designed Lavi aircraft — assistance programmes that have greatly been benefiting the Zionist state. Did the man take a moment to ask himself why his administration's policy in the Middle East has run aground? Did Washington ever think that its unlimited support for Israel is the real source of the present dangerous stalemate in this region? Or, counter to logic and common sense, does the U.S. administration really believe it is doing the right thing?

Now, the room for talk, rough as it may be, is still there. Still there, however, U.S.-Arab friendship might not be able to afford such a luxury. We certainly hope the only road left open for peace will not actually lead to disaster.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Spanish ties with Israel

SPAIN IS about to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. This was declared by its prime minister who said that Madrid will soon announce the decision officially. We believe that Spain is making a grave mistake by doing so because it stands to lose rather than gain by its move since this will cost Madrid its credibility with the Arab World.

The Arabs regard the Spanish decision as a stab in the back because they had always thought that Spain is a historic friend of the Arabs and they had always treated that country as such. Establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain would mean that the Arabs should change their minds about the Spaniards. They should stop giving Spain special trading status or preference over other nations and they should stop investing their funds and capital in that country.

We are prompted to believe that the Spanish prime minister was not given a proper appraisal of the situation in the Arab region nor of the Spanish interests in the Arab World, and this has moved him to take this wrong decision. But, nevertheless, the decision is bound to encourage the Israelis to harden their position vis-a-vis the occupied Arab lands, and pursue their arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people, denying them the right to self-determination. We regret that Spain is taking this step and we regret also that the Arab World will have to take proper action in response to that in the future.

Al Dustour: Partners in aggression

LEADERS OF the Israeli political parties, particularly the Likud and Labour, are pursuing efforts for forming a coalition government, and no one can guarantee the results of these efforts. Perhaps the two major parties will succeed in forming a government on their own or they might seek help from the smaller parties to do so. Whatever the result of these consultations and behind-the-scenes bargaining, any observer can clearly see that the crisis in government reflects the deep divisions among the members of the parties which in turn reflect divisions within the Israeli society.

Throughout its short history, Israel has resorted to a broadly-based coalition government with the purpose of overcoming economic difficulties and for winning public support for any military adventure against the Arabs. The Likud and the Labour parties both have ambitious plans to carry out and both are characterised by aggressiveness, but most important of all, both are agreed on continuing the present course of hostility towards the Arab Nation and continued occupation of Arab land. Therefore the Arabs should not title out the possibility of Israel launching a new aggression on Arab countries to direct the Israeli public opinion to "common cause" and external issues and divert people's attention from the deteriorating economic situation in Israel.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lack of Arab consistency

SPAIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT that it intends to establish diplomatic relations with Israel represents a shameful retreat for the Arabs on the European political scene. Of course, Spain has been exposed to pressure from other European countries and world Zionism. It was made clear to Madrid that its entry into the European Common Market depends largely on its recognition of Israel. But this does not mean that the Arabs should remain apathetic to these developments. In fact this has come about due to lack of Arab political action in Europe, lack of unity among Arab countries on a common strategy and due to inter-Arab conflicts.

The Arabs proved in Europe and the whole world that they are divided, unworthy of confidence and have a very weak will in confronting issues, and this has cost them a lot. The Arabs are now reaping the fruit of their actions on the domestic front and their inability to interact with international developments in a proper manner.

I tip my hat to all Jerash Festival folk

By Rami G. Khouri

I WOULD like to tip my hat to all the people who have organised and participated in the Third Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. I am a great fan of the Jerash Festival, and have attended all three festivals, starting with the three-day mini-festival experiment in 1981. Now that we have had three festivals, of different sizes and varieties, we should have enough experience to be able to assess the festival with some confidence. I say "assess", because I think we need more solid assessment, and less of the sweeping criticism and negativism that dominate Jordanian society.

I am perplexed, for example, by the peculiar local habit of assuming that most of the big projects that have been built in the country are technically faulty and therefore useless. At one time or another, I have heard stories to the effect that all the following projects were badly designed and could not be used: Queen Alia International Airport, the King Talal Dam, the Housing Bank's Commercial Complex in Shmeisani, the potash project, and the Jordan Valley-to-North Jordan water conveyance system, to mention only the biggest.

Of course, all of these schemes are functioning more or less as designed, with deviations from initial projections usually being due to changes in the economic climate upon completion, and not to design faults. For some reason, it is a favourite Jordanian pastime to criticise large national endeavours, and therefore it came as no surprise to hear so many criticisms of the Jerash Festival.

I have been impressed by two particular aspects of the Jerash Festival. The first is the obvious ability of the organisers to learn from each successive festival, and improve the next one. There was a clear difference between this year's organisation and last year's, especially in the physical layout of the booths and activities within the ancient ruins, the flow of people, the timing and spacing out of the major performances, and the variety of attractions.

There were no crushing crowds this year, blocked streets in the middle of the city or over-stuffed food and beverage stands. The orderly organisation of the car parking problem strikes me as one of the festival's greatest successes, and one hopes that others in the country may learn that a disciplined and rational approach to such matters will always succeed if one only tries one's best. In short, the organisers have shown us that they cannot only put on a good show, but also that they can improve it year after year. To be sure, some problems can still be ironed out, and improvements can always be made. To judge from the first three festivals, they will be.

The second point that struck me is that the best testament to the success of the festival has been the number of visitors, now averaging about a hundred thousand every year. The formula that was devised for the Jerash Festival from the start seems to me to have proved itself as valid and appropriate. This is not an annual showcase of only the very finest Arab or international performing arts; nor is it a non-participatory spectacle in which the audience sits for two hours listening to a famous group perform and then goes home. It is not, either, the exclusive stage of a handful of local troupes.

It is, in fact, a people's street festival, with widely varying qualities of performing and visual arts and crafts catering to the many different tastes of the population. It is more a catalyst for the local arts than their showcase, a vehicle by which people can have fun for two weeks in August while nurturing the fragile and rather young Jordanian repository of dance, music, theatre, painting, sculpture, poetry and song.

If some performances were better than others, then the festival shall have succeeded in bringing together a cross section of Jordan's art. The better troupes shall have performed for audiences numbering in the tens of thousands. The weaker ones shall have been put to the rigorous test of public judgement. Young children wandering through the crowds shall have been stimulated to consider going into the arts in a serious manner.

For perhaps the first time in Jordan's modern history, the country has realised that if its performing arts are varied in quality, the demand among the people for this sort of cultural activity is strong. If the Jerash Festival gradually promotes the development of folkloric and artistic groups throughout the country, it shall have succeeded in its underlying aim — to act as a catalyst for culture and the arts throughout the land.

This raises a delicate question: who decides which art forms are most appropriate to be included in the festival, and, ultimately, to be promoted throughout the land? It was correct to keep the organisation of the festival outside the formal context of the ministries and the state, and to

place it, rather, under the aegis of a higher national committee. There is a danger that the promotion of culture and the arts in general could fall into the hands of narrow-minded people who would tend to dictate to others their preferences in the huge arena of culture and the arts.

The initial three years of the Jerash Festival indicate that there is little danger of this happening. It would be appropriate, one thinks, to tighten the mechanisms by which the festival remains under the aegis of an independent committee, with significant representation from the private sector as well as the public sector. It is also the right time to take a hard look at the financial side of the festival, and to put it on a firm and independent footing that will ensure that its quality keeps rising as it has done since its inception.

I am struck by the symbolism of what has happened at Jerash. In the glory days of the ancient Greco-Roman city, in the first and second centuries AD, Jerash was one of many other provincial Roman cities throughout the eastern Mediterranean area. These cities were vital for the transmission of Greco-Roman culture and ideas into the Middle East, from where they were ultimately retransmitted to Europe some 1000 years later, eventually helping to stimulate the European Renaissance and the rise of Western civilisation.

As such, Jerash and other provincial Roman cities in the Arab World were vehicles for the preservation, diffusion and transmission of global arts and culture in their broadest sense. The Jerash Festival has reinvigorated this process, though somewhat in reverse. The old stones of Jerash have been revived as a vehicle for the transmission of Arab and international culture and arts to an audience of tens of thousands of Jordanians. To see American, Soviet, German, French, Colombian and Indian troupes performing at Jerash is to see the provincial cities of the ancient Middle East once again play their role as the survivors and passers-on of artistic impulses and cultural ideals that are, in the end, universal and timeless.

The organisers of the Jerash Festival have done something fine. They have not only lived up to the extraordinary challenge of one of history's legacies, but have also demonstrated the enormous good that can be done when generous, humble and public-spirited people put their minds together and insist on doing a quality job. To them all, a tip of the hat.

What if three Arabs had been found in the Dikko crate?

WHAT IF three Arabs, instead of three Israelis, had been found in the crate holding the Nigerian, Dr. Umaru Dikko, when it was seized at Stansted Airport in Britain in the first week of July?

It is the measure of the Western malady that any Arabs concerned, and by inference all Arabs, would be found in such circumstances, have been roasted alive in the public prints.

There would probably have been immediate media outrage. Mr. Rupert Murdoch's anti-Arab "New York Post" would for once, have found union with Mrs. Graham's "Washington Post" in most likely screaming that "Arab terrorists kidnap ex-Nigerian Minister". The headlines, whether in the London "Times" or the "Los Angeles Times" would have been equally predictable.

In Britain that masterly historian and classy one-time editor of the "New Statesman", Paul Johnson, would almost certainly have been frothing at the evidence of another "Arab outrage."

Another expert on "terrorism" in the public prints, ex-"Times" military correspondent, Lord Chalfont, was at the very time of the discovery of the crate addressing a conference on terrorism at the Jonathan Institute in Washington. He would almost certainly have made a rumour about this latest incident were Arabs in any way involved. He would have doubtless felt it to be proof positive of Arab "terrorism" being on the hoof again.

Instead, as some people were surprised to find, no less than three Israelis were found in the crate. Many papers, extraordinarily enough mentioned only two. The leading figure was Dr. Lev-Arie Shapiro, 43, a top ana-

esthetist at the Sharon Hospital near Tel Aviv. Dr. Shapiro is in the Israeli Army Reserves. He saw services in Lebanon. He came to Britain in the first week of July telling friends, according to the "Jewish Chronicle", that he had received a private contract to "accompany a patient". Now we know who. The second Israeli in the crate was Dr. Felix Abitbol, a Tunisian born Israeli national from Netanya. He is a member of a well-known Arab-Israeli family that owns a number of shops, cafes and nightclubs in the town. The third Israeli was Mr. Alexander Barak, a 27-year-old businessman who curiously holds both an Israeli and Nigerian passport. He is said to travel extensively. At least two of these men were alleged to have been former members of Mossad, the Israeli secret service. The fourth man in the crate was the Nigerian diplomat.

All three have appeared in a London court in Lambeth to be charged and unlike unfortunate Arab "terrorists" or "kidnappers" or "hijackers" (use your own terminology according to prejudice) who usually have no legal aid and are often forgotten, the three Israeli gentlemen have no less than Sir David Napley, the most expensive lawyer in Lincoln's Inn, briefed on their behalf. Two prominent Israeli lawyers have also flown immediately from Tel Aviv to London.

One of the three Israeli gentlemen in the crate was equipped with syringe and drugs. In this nightmare scenario straight out of John Le Carré at his best, a rubber tube had been inserted in the victim's throat so that drugs and fluids could be administered directly into Dr. Dikko's bloodstream. The London "Times" on July

9th, readers saw, carried a headline "Detectives question Dikko in Hospital." The Israelis who accompanied their Nigerian victim were, it could be noted in passing, given a somewhat indifferent five lines in the story.

Why no greater interest, might one be permitted to ask? Two days before on July 1, Lord Rothermere's London "Daily Mail", Mr. Paul Johnson, who we have already mentioned, published an article under a dramatic heading, "Hit Men of the World to Prowl in London".

Who are these hit-men who were for some mysterious purpose collaborating with person or persons unknown in Nigeria to bring to an abrupt end Dr. Dikko's life in London? With a sense of mounting excitement that Mr. Johnson would give us the truth about the hit men found in the packing case, fast-hungry readers read his article — all 800 words of exciting journalism. Mr. Johnson, however, is brilliant at distracting the reader by raising side issues. He is an able performer in the theatre of sensation.

He mentions, by way of taking his reader on a detour, the kidnapping tricks of the late Colonel Nasser, said at one time to have constructed a packing case containing a sort of dentist's chair in which his intended victim was strapped for airmail expedition to Cairo.

The "tricks" of the Libyans (who else?) are also catalogued. The Iranians (why not?) get a mention. Those long-suffering media targets the Saudi Arabian "princes and plutocrats" are described as living in "heavily guarded bolt-holes around London." Mr. Johnson also paints a kind of

phantasy of thousands of "petrified millionaires" about to leave the Gulf if the established order there is ever overthrown!

All good sensational stuff, to be sure, but what about the Israeli "hit men" in the present case? Mr. Johnson is silent.

What do you call Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Felix Abitbol and Mr. Barak but "hit men", or "terrorists", may one politely ask? They may have carried a bottle of Pentathol instead of a Mauser pistol, but the effect is much the same if you met them on a stroll in Notting Hill Gate and you were to them a "wanted" man.

It is not remarkable that historian Paul Johnson manages to leave out a bit of vital current history and turn his reader's attention to the Arabs, even in a case which has not the remotest connection with any Arabs? Why does this historian try to anaesthetise his reader? Since the public's insatiable interest in people with a secret service background why not explore the Israeli connection?

In fact, the one thing apparent, not only in the writings of Mr. Johnson, but in those of many others, is a complacent disregard, not only in Britain but in America, about the need to get behind the scenes on what is by any reckoning a sensational story of forceful kidnap.

The "Daily Mail" stable-mate, the "Mail on Sunday", is edited by Stewart Steven, who once wrote a meticulously detailed and exciting book about the history of Mossad. You would suppose therefore that Mr. Steven would be on to the story. But what do we find?

On July 15th, in fact the "Mail on Sunday" carried a full page ar-

icle entitled "The Crate People and Other Cover-Ups" by Alan Williams. Was light to be shed in this article on the great cover-up

about the three Israelis who nearly brought off the kidnap of the decade? No, not a single word — The Voice of the Arab World.

AS THOSE KIDNAPPED NIGERIANS ARE FOUND IN A CRATE

Freedom... but it brings the hit men of the world to prowl in London

by PAUL JOHNSON

Three suspected Middle Eastern mercenaries were being questioned by anti-terrorist squad detectives last night about the kidnapping of the Nigerian millionaire and former government minister, Alhaji Umaru Dikko.

The 222 passengers and 23 crew members of a British Airways Boeing 747 were held in Lagos early yesterday.

Three men who were arrested last night are being held at a police station in Lagos. They are being questioned about the kidnapping of Dikko.

The police, who were alerted to the kidnapping, sealed off the area and began a search for the van. By last night it had not been found.

The plane was diverted to Lagos and landed at the airport. The passengers were held in the airport.

The plane was searched and three men were found. They are being held in a police station in Lagos.

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The "Daily Mail" article of July 7. A feat to mention Arab acts of "terrorism" without a single reference to a current story of Israeli "terrorism".

'Mercenaries' held after kidnap of doped Nigerian

By Peter Davenport

He was told that the Government expected the Nigerians to be released in the next few days, but the plane was held in Lagos and the passengers were held in the airport.

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Alan William

The Crate People and other great cover-ups

I REALISE that any story which begins with an African millionaire and three Israeli mercenaries being found in a crate at Stansted Airport must be good for a few laughs.

But now — ten days after the extraordinary news of Dikko's kidnapping, while the plane continues to be held with passengers in Lagos — the story is still being treated as a joke.

There are two ways of looking at this. One is to say that the story is so absurd that it is not worth taking seriously. The other is to say that the story is so absurd that it is worth taking seriously.

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The debate has been further stirred by Archbishop John O'Connor of New York, who recently suggested that Roman Catholics should not vote for politicians who fail to oppose abortion.

Mr. Mondale, his vice presidential running mate Geraldine Ferraro and New York Governor Mario Cuomo, who publicly rebuffed Archbishop O'Connor, appeared to be the implied targets of his criticism.

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"He is thinking very deeply about this question," she said.

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No sex, please, we are Swedish

SWEDEN'S sexual revolution, which thrilled the world for 20 years, is now—tentatively—taking a few backward steps. It started in the sixties and reached its highest point in the early seventies with the abolition of all censorship and the end of many taboos against sex before marriage. Now, both in the home and in the attitude of the state, there are significant changes.

Censorship has not been reintroduced on sex as such, but a ban has been imposed on live sex shows and on child pornography. A committee of inquiry has recommended the censorship of sexual violence on film and video, a recommendation that the government of Olof Palme seems likely to accept.

The ostensible reason for these bans has been to protect women from prostitution, and children from exploitation—not to protect the spectators. But the effect has been that Stockholm's sex clubs have virtually disappeared. There are now only two left out of the more than 20 that existed in the mid-seventies, and the Swedes, by and large, are not sorry to see them go. They were never much more than a tourist trap to cash in on Sweden's wholly undeserved reputation abroad as the country of sin and sex.

An even more significant change has taken place in the last few years in the private domain—a change in atmosphere in favour of family and fidelity. It is the beginning of a moral backlash against the permissive and promiscuous philosophy of the sixties.

"I cannot prove it yet, but I think there has been a clear change in the atmosphere in the last five years," says Carl-Gustav Boethius. He is the former chairman and now vice-chairman of the Sex Education Board, which runs a clinic and advice centre in south Stockholm. "We notice it here very strongly and I think it will soon start showing up in the statistics."

"The real explosion of sex liberalisation was in the sixties and the first half of the seventies. During that time there were some teenagers, a relatively small group, who had sexual relations with many different partners and a very extensive sex life."

"In the last five years teenagers have fared out for themselves, without much preaching from the older generation, that this type of behaviour does not have much to offer—what you really want is someone you can be very close to."

"The change we observe today is that teenagers, both boys and girls, now say that you should wait

before you enter into sexual relations until you are sure that you have found the right person for you—not the right person for your whole life, but the right person for you today—and they also say that if you have sexual relations, you must be faithful to your partner."

There was a time, Mr. Boethius says, when some of the boys and girls who had their first sexual experiences at an early age were really quite disturbed. But now, he says, when investigating young people starting at 12 or 13, one finds that they can be well balanced, enjoying good relations with their parents and achieving good results at school.

Follow-up surveys have also shown that even if they found their first sexual encounters at 12 or 13 to be "uninteresting," as half of them did, they suffered no ill effects and matured normally. "It is not as the extreme moralists always say that if a girl starts too early she has disturbed her whole life. That is not true," said Mr. Boethius.

What is happening, he says, is that more responsible young people are experiencing sex before marriage and they are beginning to do it in a more responsible way. At the same time living together before marriage is no longer an act of social defiance but of conformity.

If living together had become acceptable in the seventies, it has now become positively respectable. The Swedish equivalent of the Kinsey report found as early as 1969 that the percentage of young marrieds saying they had had no sexual experience before marriage was as low as two per cent. "I'm sure it is much less than two per cent today and those who are left are mainly Pentecostals and Baptists," said Mr. Boethius.

There are now practically no weddings where the couple had not lived in the same flat or house before marriage. That is not just a matter of speculation but can be seen from income tax and census returns, which are publicly available. The fact has been even more obvious in church weddings, since the banns have to be read from the pulpit on the Sunday before the wedding. Unlike this country, where the priest simply refers to the couple as a bachelor or a spinster "of this parish," the Swedish priest has to give the full address of the groom and then the full address of the bride, which is very often the same. This has been very difficult for the more conservative priests to accept.

It has been even more difficult for such priests to accept the fact



No longer a moral duty to abandon a poor marriage. Scene from Ingmar Bergman's film, *From the Life of the Marionettes*

that most theological students and even some younger priests in the Lutheran state church now live openly with their partners before marriage. It is not even considered unusual for a priest to be divorced and to live with his future wife before being remarried in church.

Most theological students, according to Carl Gustaf Boethius, have their first sexual experience outside marriage, and they do so with the blessing of many senior figures in the church. The former Bishop of Stockholm, Ingmar Strom, once said in an interview: "I remember my own life during the last years at school and at university when I was studying theology, and it was absolutely forbidden for me to have sexual relations with the girls I fell in love with. I remember that as a dark and terrible room." He did not want young Swedish people to live in that dark and terrible room any more.

This change in morality has been paralleled by a change in language. For Swedes to talk today about "pre-marital sex" would sound rather quaint, and "living in sin" more so. Instead they talk about living together and they use the word for a cohabitee, "sambo," to refer to their partners. "You must meet my sambo," they will say, in just the same way that they might say "meet my husband" or "meet my wife."

This lack of self-consciousness stretches to the wedding pictures in Swedish newspapers where the happy couples are often pictured with their own children, who are usually aged between five and ten when the parents decide to relinquish their "sambo" status and get married. Out of 20 or 30 wedding announcements in the newspaper every day two or three usu-

ally include children.

Sociologists argue that this is not a new custom but a very old one. Church records go back further in Sweden than in almost any other country and they appear to show that it has been the custom for hundreds of years in many parts of Sweden for engaged couples to live together. The first child is often born less than nine months after marriage.

According to one sociologist, "Young people in Sweden have always lived together before marriage. The Church tried to force them to get married immediately, but it never succeeded. The sex liberals tried to convince them they must be even more sexually free, and some even preached that promiscuity was a good thing. But they did not succeed either, and young people are now reverting to their old customs."

The difference is that in the old days it was impossible for a young man to leave his girl even though they were not married. He would be ostracised in his village or forced to emigrate to America. But since people started to move off the land and into the cities about 100 years ago, the system of social control began to break down and young people began to experience sexual freedom.

Even today the difference can still be seen between the cities, where 50 per cent of marriages end in divorce, and the countryside, where the figure is 30 per cent. Many people believe that the divorce rate will decline as the children of divorced parents grow up and become parents themselves.

"In the last four or five years we have had young people coming to us and saying something that they never said before," says Mr. Boethius. "They say they have difficulties

in their marriage, but they don't want to divorce because they remember how they suffered as children when their parents divorced, and they don't like the idea of making their children suffer in the same way."

"We also get teenagers telling us they are very upset by the infidelity of their parents, and are worried that the family will split up. They also say that they will never live like that when they grow up, though that is something which naturally they often cannot realise in their later life."

Rita Lilestroem, one of Sweden's foremost sociologists, has also issued a public warning over the high divorce rate which, she says, simply cannot go on. Children are often deeply hurt and it is a danger to the whole of society.

"Many divorces are necessary. It was a terrible thing in the old days when it was impossible for a woman to leave a bad marriage," says Mr. Boethius. "But the hardest criticism today is directed at the type of divorce which is caused by the principle that love and passion is more important than marriage and family, and that if you experience new love and a new passion it is nearly your moral duty to leave your poor marriage."

"These sudden passion divorces from marriages that have not been so bad are the ones that will decrease. People find that if they really work hard to overcome problems they find a better relationship than they had before and they can mature together."

"These are old ideas that we are hearing about again, only this time it is not because marriage is the will of God but simply the experience that rapid divorces are not a good thing. It is a practical reason that has changed their minds — *The Guardian*.

Militia-run illegal ports drain Lebanese economy

By Tod Robberson
Reuter

BEIRUT — Port activity is so brisk in Beirut these days that cargo ships often have to wait several days anchored offshore before they can dock and unload.

But the activity centres on a half-dozen illegal ports dotting the Lebanese coastline, while Beirut's official port lies almost idle.

Its empty docks stand in marked contrast to an illegal port nearby, where on any given day more than 1,500 cargo containers are stacked as trucks queue by the dozens to collect crates of dishwashers, stereo sets, televisions, generators or clothing—all being imported without a cent of customs duty paid to the government.

Shipping sources say business is booming at the illegal ports, which are run by militias or militia-backed businessmen, and the costs incurred by berthing delays are more than covered by the savings on duties.

The value of their business cannot be determined exactly because their operators refuse to talk to reporters or declare their income to the government.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami recently told a local business magazine the treasury was being sapped by illegal ports and their continued operation could mean bankruptcy for Lebanon.

The government, however, is powerless to close them without starting a new round of fighting in the nine-year-old civil war, a source in the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia said.

Shipping sources say the militia runs Lebanon's busiest and most

profitable port, next to the official Beirut port which reopened in early July after a record five-month closure caused by the war.

The sources said the illegal port handles about 50 per cent of all Beirut shipping commerce and unloads eight to 12 ships a day compared with one or two daily at the official port.

Northward across Beirut harbour is the second-busiest port at Dbaiyeh, which is run illegally by a former bodyguard of Finance Minister Camille Chamoun.

An official at Beirut port said customs receipts had averaged 15 million Lebanese pounds (\$2.3 million) a month before the port closed during fighting last February.

Now, however, receipts were down to only three million pounds (\$460,000) per month, he said.

"We barely meet our operating expenses," an official said.

From 1975, when the war began, to mid-1983, illegal ports drained more than five billion pounds (\$770 million) from government coffers, customs officials said.

A source involved with both illegal and legal ports said only ships whose cargo carries less than one per cent customs duty are using the official port. These include ships carrying livestock, chemicals or grain.

The Beirut agent of a major world shipper, who asked not to be named, said the savings offered by illegal ports have tempted even the most reputation-conscious shipping lines to enter the Beirut black market.

He said government customs fees begin at 10,000 pounds (\$1,540) per container, whereas illegal ports usually charge a flat fee rarely exceeding 5,000 pounds (\$750).

"As an importer, you just can't compete if you try to be legal and pay customs on your goods while your competition is using an illegal port and paying nothing," he added.

For larger shippers, the main deterrent to using illegal ports is that insurers usually refuse coverage or charge up to 50 per cent more than the already high war-risk premium paid for calling at Beirut's legal port, he said.

That leaves most of the illegal port business to shadowy local shippers who take cargo on consignment from larger vessels in Cyprus and shuttle it to Lebanon in aging, unmarked ships that carry no insurance, a port source said.

The government has tried several times to close the illegal facilities in Beirut, but "Lebanese Forces" commander Fadi Frem has insisted his militia's dock will remain open until all illegal ports in Syrian-controlled North Lebanon are closed.

Those included the main Tripoli port, operated illegally by the fundamentalist Sunni Muslim Tawheed militia since January, and a smaller dock south of Tripoli run by the Marada militia of former President Suleiman Franjeh.

Shipping sources said the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze Muslim leader Walid Junblat is planning to build an illegal port at Khaldé, 10 kilometres south of Beirut in an area jointly controlled by the PSP and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militias.

A new book charts faulty judgments of history

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — Beethoven's fifth symphony was dismissed as an "orgy of vulgar noise". Communism as a passing fad and Hitler as a man who would never go to war.

A new book called "The Experts Speak" recounts with vicious glee these and other judgments which have jarred spectacularly with reality through the centuries.

— Michelangelo to a Pope complaining at how long he was taking on the Sistine chapel: "I told your holiness I was no painter."

— Britain's Winston Churchill when he was replaced as First Lord of the Admiralty in 1915: "I am finished."

— Wilbur Wright to his brother Orville in 1901: "Man will not fly for 50 years." The brothers made the first plane flight only two years later.

"The Experts Speak", a 391-page book edited by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky, is crammed with such wayward views, all presented in the experts' own words. The editors rarely comment on their collected quotes, nor do they have to.

There were experts who said that cigarettes did not cause cancer, that man would never fly, that all Japanese were short and that

Adolf Hitler was one of history's nicer guys. ("My uncle is a peaceful mao," said Hitler's nephew Willie. "He thinks war is not worth the candle.")

Mr. Cerf told Reuters that four years of research went into the book and that he and Mr. Navasky created their own "institute of expertise," composed mostly of friends, to help look up yesterday's bad advice and predictions.

The institute uncovered Lord Kelvin, a leading British mathematician and physicist, who had an almost supernatural ability to make wrong predictions.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible," he said in 1895.

"Radio has no future," he said two years later.

And in 1900: "X-rays are a hoax."

Kelvin was rivalled in music by German violin virtuoso Louis Spohr, who dismissed Beethoven's fifth as "an orgy of vulgar noise" and said his ninth was "so ugly, in such bad taste... so cheap" that he could not understand how it was written.

"Our book is unfair," Mr. Cerf admits. "All you have to do is be wrong to get in. We don't care when someone is right."

Advance copies were sent to Congress in the hope of critical praise. "Your book will never

sell," replied one congressman. If the book becomes a best-seller, subsequent editions will carry the congressman's quote.

Mr. Cerf says, "Of course, if it is right, we won't be able to say a word."

The saddest error may have been that of British writer H.G. Wells when he said of World War I: "This, the greatest of all wars, is not just another war—it is the last war."

Hitler was widely misjudged. Former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George flatly said the Germans under Hitler would never go to war and Lodia independence leader Mahatma Gandhi praised Hitler for the careful way his troops avoided killing people in World War II.

Journalists have also made mistakes. Walter Duranty, the New York Times correspondent in Moscow, predicted in 1920 that the Bolshevik government would not last six months.

And a Reuters correspondent almost missed the Russian Revolution. "I tell you that nothing is going to happen in this forsaken country," Guy Beringer in Petrograd told a colleague in 1917. "It's a good time to go to the Crimea for a holiday."

Sexual abuse reported in child care centres

By Susan Essosyan
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Day care centres for children, which have grown in popularity since more American mothers began working outside the home, may face stricter regulation here after dozens of youngsters reported they had been sexually molested by employees.

The issue surfaced in early August, when a mother reported her child had been raped at a centre in the New York Borough of the Bronx. Within a week, investigators had interviewed 100 children at the centre and found 30 youngsters, aged four to eight, who complained of abuse, according to Edward McCarthy, spokesman for the district attorney, the local prosecutor who headed the investigation.

Four employees were arrested and some outraged citizens took matters into their own hands. Shortly after the first disclosure, a jeering crowd gathered outside one of the child care centres and turned violent, breaking four windows.

The shocking allegations have sparked efforts by government officials—both local and national—to try to prevent such abuse.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is drafting model hiring practices for day care centre employees that should lead to more rigorous investigation before people are hired, according to spokesman Harold Eldlin.

The department also is preparing a folder to alert parents to the problem.

In New York, the Agency for Child Development, which oversees 385 city-funded day care centres with 42,000 children, has decided to check the programme every three weeks, according to Doby Flowers, deputy administrator.

She said the agency also is revamping training programmes of child care employees and has mailed literature to parents instructing them on how to detect abuse. And the city has begun insisting on criminal background checks before new employees are hired in day care programmes.

The state maintains a registry of all child abuse cases reported.

Mayor Edward Koch has sent letters to every employee at each centre in the city urging them to report any suspicious they have about child sexual abuse.

But authorities say that child care centres as a whole are not likely spots for abuse.

"The overwhelming majority of the centres are perfectly safe places," said Eldlin of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"These are relatively isolated cases. There's no denying there is sexual abuse, it certainly is a fact of life, but at centres it is rare."

Nonetheless, the New York dis-

closure has emboldened other victims, and the number of cases reported in the state has skyrocketed.

In July, three suspected cases of sexual abuse of children at day care centres were reported to the state's central registry. In August, that number jumped to 41, according to Terrance McGrath, spokesman for the Department of Social Services.

In all of the previous year, from July 1983 to June 1984, there were only 22 cases reported statewide, of which five were substantiated, he said.

"Whether this trend is going to continue, there is no way to predict," Mr. McGrath said in a telephone interview.

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McEnroe, Connors enter U.S. Open fourth round

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Top-seeded John McEnroe and defending champion Jimmy Connors posted straight-set victories, while Great Britain's John Lloyd upset Johan Kriek Sunday to move into the fourth round of the \$2.55 million U.S. Open tennis championships.

Also posting third-round victories Sunday on the hard courts at the National Tennis Centre were ninth-seeded Henrik Sundstrom of Sweden, no. 13 Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, no. 14 Anders Jarryd of Sweden and qualifier Robert Green of the United States.

The final fourth-round spot in the men's singles was decided Sunday night when Guillermo

Vilas of Argentina played Gene Mayer in a battle of unseeded players.

Connors swept past Henri Leconte of France 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 in his bid to win his third consecutive U.S. Open title and sixth overall. The left-hander was never in trouble against his French opponent, who alternated brilliant winners with sloppy play.

A subdued McEnroe, in perfect control of his game and his on-court behaviour, breezed past Kevin Moir of South Africa 6-3, 6-0, 6-3, while Lloyd, after dropping the opening set, won the second-set tiebreaker 12-10 en route to posting a 2-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Kriek, the 1981 and 1982 Australian Open champion.

But the favourite result to the sell-out crowd of more than 20,000 was Lloyd's victory over Kriek.

"The crowds in America have always treated me well," said Lloyd. "But since we (he and Chris Evert) got married their interest has probably quadrupled. It's actually like Wimbledon here



U.S. Open defending champion Jimmy Connors makes a return against Henri Leconte Sunday (AP wirephoto)

for me — the whole crowd was willing me to win."

Injuries contributed to Lloyd's struggle, as did his adjustment to life with Chris, who has won more than \$5 million in tennis.

Seeded women to advance, included Americans Pam Shriver (4) and Lisa Bonder (9), Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany (8) and Australian Wendy Turnbull (13).

Two unseeded women also reached the fourth round. Susan

Mascuria of the United States defeated veteran Virginia Ruzici of Romania and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia ousted talented 14-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, the youngest player ever to win a match at the open.

The fourth-round pairings will send top-seeded Martina Navratilova against Potter, Bonder against Sukova, Shriver against Mascuria and Turnbull against Kohde-Kilsch in the top half of the draw.

Belgian takes world cycling title

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Belgium's Claude Criquielien Mooday savoured the biggest achievement of his sporting career after he powered through sweltering heat over a roller-coaster course to win the World Professional Road Race Cycling title in Barcelona.

The 27-year-old Belgian rider sprinted clear in the penultimate lap and went on to finish first after watching a string of race favourites fall victim to the soaring temperatures and strength-sapping heads of Barcelona's Montjuic circuit.

"I was geared up... there was a break and I followed. Winning was a real surprise to me," Criquielien said.

Italian rider Claudio Corti, the 1977 amateur road race world champion, chased the Belgian to the end but failed to catch him and finished second.

In their wake they left a handful of big-name riders such as French pair Laurent Fignon and Bernard Hinault, Ireland's Sean Kelly and Italian Francesco Moser who all succumbed to the punishing conditions and pulled out.

Last year's world champion American Greg Lemond trailed home in 27th place.

The gruelling road race ended a week of top-level competition in Barcelona where sports officials hailed the 1984 World Cycling Championships as the launch of the city's bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games.

European high jump record marks end of Rieti international athletics

RIETI, Italy (R) — West Germany's Carlo Thraenhardt staged an exciting high jump battle with Valery Sereda of the Soviet Union at an international athletics meeting here Sunday which ended with them sharing a European record.

As the light faded in Rieti's modest stadium, which has no floodlights, Sereda beat the previous record by one centimetre, clearing the bar at 2.37 metres at his first attempt.

But Thraenhardt, joint holder of the previous European record, equalled him minutes later on his third attempt.

Both athletes then failed with three attempts at 2.40 metres, one centimetre above the world record set by China's Jian Hua Zhu at Eberstadt, West Germany, in June.

The European record ended an otherwise disappointing meeting which saw pole vault champion Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union, who raised his own world record to 5.94 metres in Rome on Friday, well below his best.

Bubka, perhaps missing the competition of France's Thierry Vigneron who briefly stole the record from him at Rome's Golden Gala, finished second in his event with a best vault of 5.65 metres behind compatriot Alexander Krupsky.

Czechoslovakia's double world champion Jarmila Kratochvilova ended a successful weekend in Italy with an easy win in the women's 400 metres after her victory in the 800 metres in Rome.

Kratochvilova, who was unable to take part in the Los Angeles Olympics because of the Soviet-led boycott, finished in 49.02 seconds, outside her own record of

47.99 but comfortably ahead of Olympic champion Valerie Brisco-Hooks of the U.S.

In the women's high jump world champion Lyudmila Andonova of Bulgaria had two attempts at 2.08 metres, one centimetre above her existing world record, before deciding to be satisfied with a winning jump of 2.03 metres.

Canada's Debbie Brill battled with Andonova after the pair had left behind Soviet rival Tamara

Bykova who failed a 1.98 metres. But Brill, who has never surpassed 1.99 metres, was unable to clear the bar at two metres Sunday.

The meeting signalled another disappointment for Italy's 200 metres world champion Pietro Mennea, who could not match Olympic silver medalist Kirk Baptiste of the U.S.

Baptiste won in 20.35 seconds with 31-year-old Mennea half a stride behind.

China regains world table tennis honours

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — China regained the World Table Tennis Cup when 20-year-old student Jiang Jialing crushed South Korean Kim Wan 21-14, 16-21, 21-4, 21-11 in the final here Monday.

Jiang, the world number two, was beaten by Wan, ranked 36th, during the qualifying group matches of the competition which led to allegations that the result had been rigged to allow both players through.

But there was no doubt about the outcome of Sunday's clash as Wan, who pulled off the surprise of the tournament by reaching the final, struggled to match the speed of the talented Chinese.

Jiang swamped the South Korean's defences with a barrage of powerful shots from the third game onwards, often finishing a rally with either his third or fifth ball attacks after service.

His victory made amends for China's miserable performance last year when neither Jiang or the world number one Cai Zhenhua finished in the top eight as Sweden's Michael Appelgren lifted the title. China's last success was in 1982, when Guo Yuehua won the crown in Hong Kong.

Jiang has been building a reputation as the quickest player in the world and the style of his victory here supported that claim.

Wan, who is ranked only second in his country and played here because first-ranked Kim Kee Tek could not come, said, "I am very happy. I have beaten some of the top players in the world. I never thought I would play in the final. I was hoping for fifth placing."

"The (Chinese) players are still young and good. They were off form in the earlier matches," Chinese team coach Xu Shaofa said.

Maradona proves his worth in Italian Cup

ROME (R) — Argentine Diego Maradona, Napoli's \$7.5 million signing from Barcelona, showed his worth Sunday with a hand in all three goals against second division Pescara in an Italian Soccer Cup preliminary round.

The shock-haired striker put through a perfect cross for Domenico Penzo to net Napoli's first. A foul on the Argentine brought the second with a free kick by Bertoni, and Maradona got the third with a seemingly impossible shot from flat on his back.

Italian Cup holders and European Cup finalists Roma also

took a 3-0 victory over Genoa — two of them from the ageing Francesco Graziani — and now look well poised to qualify for the next stage of the cup after lagging earlier.

The northern clubs had a less successful day. League champions Juventus were held 2-2 by Atalanta, newly promoted to the first division, while A.C. Milan could only manage 1-1 against Como, another first division newcomer.

A similar fate befell Torino, who struggled to a goalless draw against Monza despite the efforts of Brazilian midfielder Junior.

Bayern scrapes through in W. German Soccer Cup

BONN (R) — Cupholders Bayern Munich scraped through to the second round of the West German Soccer Cup Sunday with a narrow 1-0 away win against amateur side Luettichhausen.

Bayern, first division leaders this season but with six first team players injured, won with a 10th minute goal from Roland Wohlfarth which the home side hotly contested as offside.

The visitors showed none of their usual sparkle and had Bernd

Martin sent off early in the second half for a foul. Their injury problems were aggravated by Norbert Eder leaving the pitch at halftime with a pulled muscle.

Bayern will be relieved to have avoided the fate of their great rivals Hamburg, the 1983 European Cup holders, who were knocked out of the cup Saturday by another amateur side, SC Geislingen, in their most embarrassing defeat for a decade.

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Mamola's Honda wins 500-cc Grand Prix

MUGELLO, Italy (AP) — Randy Mamola of the United States on Sunday won the 500-cc motorcycle race of the Grand Prix of San Marino here Sunday, edging Frenchman Raymond Roche after an exciting duel in the final laps.

Mamola was clocked in 49:58.00 minutes.

Both Mamola and Roche rode Japanese-made Hondas in the closing event of the world motorcycle championship at the Mugello track near Florence.

Eddie Lawson of the United States, who had already clinched

the world title for the class by piling up an unbeatable lead before Sunday's race, finished fourth on a Yamaha, after Ron Haslam of Britain, who rode a third Honda.

Stefan Dörflinger of Switzerland won the world title in the 80-cc class although he finished fifth in Sunday's race on a Zundapp.

In the 125-cc race, Spain's Angel Nieto, who already had won the 1984 championship before Sunday's race, fell during the 13th lap and suffered foot injuries.

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Please contact 2520 or 5075, Salt, code no. (05), Ja'afar Al Zu'bi.

TIME

WHY THATCHER STAYED HOME (PM skips foreign travel to watch domestic troubles)
TROUBLE IN THE DEEP (Nukes on the ocean floor, and what everybody is doing about it)
SOLIDARITY LIVES ON (With caution and restraint, the opposition continues its struggle)
WHERE'S KONSTANTIN? (Speculation mounts as Soviet leader remains out of sight)
THE RILE OF HUGO BOSS (Business story on West German clothing maker)
NEW WAYS TO MAKE BABIES (Cover story on the Vitro fertilisation)



Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 44092-44280

1- PORKY'S
2- SUPER GIRL
(Colour)

Tel: 677420

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

RETURN OF THE JEDI
- THE INVINCIBLE NINJA
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155

1- BEAT STREET
2- RETURN OF THE JEDI
(Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema ZAHARAN

Tel: 23171

THE COMPLICATED DOMINOES

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema OPERA

JAMES BOND 007 IN OCTOPUSSY

(Colour)

Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- DOSH BREMO
2- FIERCE MEN & MONKEY

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

REVOLTING HAWKS
"Indian Film"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Abu Dhabi projects smaller budget deficit

ABU DHABI (R) — The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the richest in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has agreed a 1984 budget with a smaller projected deficit than last year, officials said.

They said a deficit of 1.49 billion dirhams (\$405 million) was envisaged in the budget, ratified Sunday by crown prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid.

They did not say how it would be financed.

It projected budget spending of 21.73 billion dirhams (\$5.92 billion) and revenues of 20.24 billion dirhams (\$5.51 billion).

Abu Dhabi's 1983 budget forecast a 2.79 billion dirham (\$760 million) deficit, with budget revenues falling 28 per cent from 1982 levels to 21.5 billion dirhams (\$5.86 billion)

Actual revenue and spending figures have not been disclosed.

Abu Dhabi, allowed to produce about 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil within the UAE's 1.1 billion b/d OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) quota has been hard hit by falling world oil demand.

The budget earmarked 9.13 billion dirhams (\$2.49 billion) as the emirate's annual contribution to the federal budget of the UAE, which is made up of seven emirates, the officials said.

Separately, the UAE is projecting a deficit of 4.3 billion dirhams (\$1.17 billion), after 1983's provisional deficit of 5.52 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion).

They said some 4.74 billion dirhams (\$1.29 billion) would be put to development programmes while 2.44 billion dirhams (\$665 million) would go to the financing of foreign aid packages and assistance to other emirates in the federation.

Minister says financial difficulties delay Egypt's nuclear power plans

CAIRO (R) Egyptian minister of electricity Mr. Mohammad Osman Abaza said Monday that Egypt's plan to build eight nuclear power plants by the year 2000 would be delayed by at least five years because of financing snags.

In an interview with Reuters, he also said that Egypt needed more time to study tender documents for the first two plants and would not award a contract before the end of the year.

Five groups submitted bids last November for construction of two 1,000-megawatt pressurized water reactors at El Dabba, 150 kilometres west of the Mediterranean port of Alexandria. A decision had been expected in June.

"It has taken a long time to study the bids. Each weighs 800 kilograms, and they are all very close and similar in each other," Mr. Abaza said.

Egypt had planned to generate 40 per cent of its projected electricity needs in the year 2000 from the eight plants.

But Mr. Abaza said that only four or five are now expected to be ready by then, with the rest following by 2005.

"We were supposed to get \$500 million a year from the oil industry to finance our plan. But we received \$700 million and that's what we're getting. Now we have to look for loans from the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development," he said.

Officials said last year that Egypt had \$900 million in a spe-

cial nuclear fund, and that additional money for the \$34 billion programme would come from oil revenue.

But declining oil prices cut revenue to \$2.5 billion in 1982-83 from \$3 billion in 1981-82.

Mr. Abaza said that the first plant would be on stream in 1991.

The groups competing are West Germany's Kraftwerk Union, a France-Italian consortium led by France's Framatome, West Germany's Brown, Boveri and Compagnie, and Westinghouse Electric Corporation and Bechtel Overseas, both of the U.S.

Industry sources say the two reactors will cost a total of about \$2.5 billion.

Mr. Abaza said that nuclear fuel will be procured from the U.S.

He added that the oil and mineral resources ministry would be inviting firms to implement a U.S.-funded project to evaluate Egypt's

mineral resources, particularly uranium.

The minister said that electricity consumption in Egypt, where one million babies are born every 10 months, was growing at a "frustrating" annual rate of 20 per cent.

A hike in heavily subsidised electricity prices is being considered in the 1984-85 budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, he said.

"We are thinking of raising prices without hurting the little guy," he said.

Consumers of up to 100 kilowatts per hour will get the cheapest rates, and as consumption increases, so will the rate."

Egypt's electricity prices are about 20 per cent lower than the international average, he said.

The current generating capacity is 26 billion kilowatts annually. Egypt will build three new power stations with a total capacity of 3.6 billion kilowatts to meet demand until the first reactor is operational, Mr. Abaza said.

Poland devalues zloty

WARSAW (R) — Poland's National Bank said Monday it had devalued the zloty by 10.6 per cent against the dollar in an effort to stimulate exports. It said the devaluation, effective as of last Saturday, gave an exchange rate of 123 to the dollar, compared with a previous rate of 110. The devaluation is the fourth of the Polish currency since the declaration of martial law in December 1981 at the height of the Solidarity free trade union crisis.

In 1980 the zloty stood at about 25 to the dollar.

Last March Poland devalued the zloty to 110 from 98.3 to the dollar, but many Western economists regarded that change as not going far enough. Poland's exports to Western countries, vital to servicing its foreign debt of some \$28 billion, have lagged this year partly because of an overvalued zloty, the economists said. Particular difficulties have been experienced by engineering industries, which suffer from a crop of problems including a shortage of hard currency for importing production parts and technology from the West. A senior bank official told Reuters the National Bank hoped the dollar would depreciate in the future, enabling Poland to avoid another devaluation of the zloty.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a very quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. 30 share index was up 0.2 to £53.9 and the F.T.-SE 100 share index at 1530 gained 1.4 to 1105.3.

Dealers said bid situations provided some interest but overall operators were on the defensive in the absence of any positive news on the miners strike and industrial action at some of the British docks.

The U.S. holiday further restricted trading in government bonds but they closed steady with rises of up to ½ awaiting U.K. money supply data for August but gold shares eased.

Brooke Bond ended 7p up at 117 after the rival £355 million cash bid from Unilever, down 2p at 938. First bidder, Tate and Lyle was 5p up at 383.

J. Bibby was about 62p up at 293 ex dividend after news Barlow Rand is holding bid talks. Lasso met fresh speculative demand and closed 10p higher at 338. Other oils were narrowly mixed. Johnson Matthey added 15p to 258 on demand in a thin market, dealers said.

Composite Insurances rose on renewed speculative interest with Sun Alliance 6p up at 396. Life Insurances eased and in quiet banks, Barclays firmed 5p to 467.

Argentine unions launch general strike

Buenos Aires (R) — Argentina's powerful trade unions, backed by the opposition Peronist Party, Monday launched the first general strike since the country returned to democracy nine months ago.

Major industrial unions, transport workers and others said they would stay home in a peaceful protest against President Raul Alfonsín's economic policies and talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Alfonsín's government pledged to guarantee the right to work and provide public transportation. But government officials said they expected at least 50 per cent absenteeism in major cities.

The General Labour Confederation (CGT) called the strike last Wednesday after the government failed to meet labour demands for an August wage increase to protect workers from a 61.5 per cent annual inflation rate.

It accused the government of howling to IMF pressure for an economic austerity programme and maintaining the economic policies of the former military government.

But Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, who returned Sunday night from a meeting in Chile on Latin America's debt, said strike had nothing to do with the IMF.

"The strike has other aims which are more political and I would even say are the fruit of too great a hurry," he told *Diarios Y Noticias* News Agency.

Mr. Alfonsín told power last December, inheriting a 433 per cent inflation rate and a \$44 billion foreign debt from the military

officers who had ruled for eight years.

Since then he has been involved in tough negotiations with the IMF to refinance the debt while attempting to meet a campaign pledge to increase wages in real terms by six to eight per cent this year.

An IMF team is in Buenos Aires to try to reach agreement on an austerity programme, which is a condition for refinancing the debt.

Bankers have said Argentina will have difficulty paying \$1.65 billion falling due this month unless it reaches an agreement with the IMF.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.3050/58	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2955/58	Canadian dollars
	2.9040/50	West German marks
	3.2755/65	Dutch guilders
	2.4233/50	Swiss francs
	58.53/56	Belgian francs
	8.9100/55	French francs
	1796.50/1797.50	Italian lire
	242.40/50	Japanese yen
	8.3475/3525	Swedish crowns
	8.3225/75	Norwegian crowns
	10.5700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	345.30/345.80	U.S. dollars

Unilever bids for British tea group

LONDON (R) — The Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant Unilever has moved into a takeover battle looming over the British Brooke Bond tea group with a £355 million (\$465 million) cash offer.

It exceeds a rival bid by British sugar refiner Tate and Lyle last month of around £320 million (\$419 million), which is being fiercely resisted by the Brooke Bond board.

In a statement, Unilever said it was offering 114 pence (149 cents) per share, slightly up on its latest market price of 110 (144) and had approached the group to disclose its interest.

But Brooke chairman Sir John Cuckney said Sunday's offer had taken him by surprise.

"It has arrived out of the blue," he told Reuters, complaining this was in breach of takeover rules.

There had been a meeting with Unilever on Friday, but no price or imminent bid was mentioned, Sir Cuckney said. "Late on Friday is no way to get a knee-jerk acceptance of an approach that has not even been articulated," he

Unilever, with about 270,000 employed worldwide in the food and detergent sector, said it already had a 4.8-per cent stake in Brooke Bond, while Tate and Lyle holds 0.6 per cent.

Unilever said it reserved the right to pull out if its offer was referred to the Monopolies Commission, a government watchdog body on takeovers and mergers.

However, industry sources said the only other major tea competitors were in India.

Company chairman Mr. Kenneth Durham said each firm could benefit from the strength and expertise of the other.

While Unilever's tea operations in Britain were "extremely limited," Brooke Bond was very small in the U.S., where Unilever held a strong position through its Thomas Lipton subsidiary.

The group recorded pre-tax profits of \$441 million (\$577 million) for the first half of 1984, compared with £381 million (\$498 million) over the same period last year.

Turkey economic growth may surpass estimates

ZURICH (R) Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal predicted Monday Turkey's economy as measured by the Gross national Product (GNP) might grow by a 5.7 per cent this year, higher than earlier estimates of 4.8 per cent this year, higher than earlier estimates of 4.8 per cent growth.

Speaking to Reuters shortly before attending an informal lunch with Swiss industrialists and bankers, he said 5.7 per cent growth after inflation would be the highest in seven years.

Growth in 1983 was three per cent and in 1982 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Ozal also predicted a 1984 inflation rate of 40 per cent, compared with 39 per cent in 1983.

But he said in the last half of 1983, inflation had been running at 47 per cent on an annual basis and had reached 63 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

In the first half of 1984, inflation is likely to have dropped to an annualised 45 per cent and he

forecast a further decline to 30 per cent for the second half of this year.

He also saw an improvement in exports to between \$7.2 and \$7.3 billion in 1984, up from \$5.7 billion in 1983.

Mr. Ozal said Turkey's foreign exchange situation was improving and foresaw no difficulties about repayment of debt capital expected later this year.

He also said Turkey's industrial base was strengthening. While in 1979, 38 per cent of Turkey's \$2.2 billion in exports came from the industrial sector, in 1984 industrial exports could be expected to account for 74 per cent of all sales abroad.

He said Turkey was expected to make a decision this month on purchases of new aircraft, with proposals being considered from Boeing company and the European consortium, Airbus Industrie.

THE BETTER HALF®

By Harris

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The Register and Tribune
Syndicates, Inc.

"Why don't you make some of your coffee? I could use the fiber."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles,
one letter to each square, to form
four ordinary words.

DUGEN
□ ○ □ □ □ □ ○ □

KNARC
□ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □

DERAIV
□ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □

ROVACT
□ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □

**WHEN YOU'RE IN IT,
YOU NEVER KNOW.**

Now arrange the circled letters to
form the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TESTY ABIDE ELIXIR LACING
Answer: In order to select the finest wine, examine
this — THE BEST-CELLAR LIST

Peanuts

I BELIEVE IN THE WORK ETHIC...

THE HARDER YOU WORK, THE MORE MONEY YOU SHOULD MAKE!

I BELIEVE IN THE ALLOWANCE ETHIC!

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SHERMAN

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I CAN PROVE THAT MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO YOUR ANCESTORS CAME OUT OF THE SEA!

HOW?

HERE, HOLD A CIGARETTE IN EACH CORNER OF YOUR MOUTH? NOW FLAP YOUR ARMS!

THERE YOU ARE, LITTLE WALRUS!

G.L. SIMPSON

Andy Capp

YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, ANDY -

SOME BLOKES ARE GOOD LOSERS, WHILE OTHERS CAN'T ACT TO SAVE THEIR LIVES

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUG., 4, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A great day to get after your various civic, career or outside conditions of all sorts and to make progress in them. Be sure you discuss your affairs over with someone of influence.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You could get a raise or promotion because of fine work you do today. Show one who has considerable power over you that you're loyal.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try a more up-to-date system for making money and become more successful. Elevate your consciousness and grow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will please the one you love and the future becomes brighter. Make sure you keep all promises.

MOON CHILDREN (Aug. 22 to Jul. 21) Join with dynamic partners and get into more productive outlets; become more successful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your duties organized more intelligently and you can perform them more efficiently.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be more practical in studying amusements you like and plan how to have them more often, and not spend too much money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Become more practical at home so that kin will feel more secure and happy there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Others may be waiting for you to state your views on some constructive mutual venture, so do so. Be active and make progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can get ahead monetarily if you are more practical and can build up assets. Take it easy tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The planets are poised so that you can protect your interests very nicely now. Then later be with the friends you most admire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop dreaming and get busy making arrangements confidentially so that you can improve business affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A dynamic friend can help you with some matter that is of importance to you, so permit to do so.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... be or she will be very good at organizing things and should have the benefit of a fine education slanted along sub lines and your progeny could become the head of some large organization or become a valuable adjunct in the government.

THE Daily Crossword

by Roma Schmidt

ACROSS

1 Move quickly

5 Up to the time that

10 Paradise denizen

14 First-class

15 Sculptured piece

16 Specialty shop

17 Reckless ones

19 Ellipse

20 Water swelling

21 Arabian chieftain

23 Vex

24 Gr. letter

26 Walk leisurely

28 Rebecca or Mae

34 Period

35 Mated

38 Cavalry sword

40 Having curia

42 Titles

44 Calumet

45 Agents

47 Surcoat

49 Pakoe or

50 Fitzgerald

51 Less dense

53 Added garlic

57 Hit again

58 Resinous substance

60 Like a cupola

62 Bingo-like game

66 Wide jar

68 — cake

70 Ornamental button

71 Wear away

72 Piscivorous bird

73 Cries

74 Church group

75 Colors

18 Outmoded

22 Use ears in a while

27 Vault

28 Toothed tools

29 With mouth wide open

30 Spiny shrub

31 Blind part

33 Wigwag's relative

38 Flightless bird

37 Cub packs

39 Behind

41 Dog cry

43 Tastes

46 Stated

48 Rubes

52 Covered over

54 Morse and penal

55 Abrahah

56 Can. island

58 Deprivation

59 Singing voice

61 Capar

63 Whig opponent

64 Musical sound

65 Kaatsian roots

67 Newspaper items

68 Conducted

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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ADIES  TILED  RAYE
FOST  ENAGE  OLEIA
EPISOMOOOWNS  LOAD
SEIEMED  SRIILERS
  ANSIE  REE
KENDUCKY  THURSH
ARLIA  EELER  RTE
RAIN  SCALERS  BEA
OTIO  TONER  SCAR
BOWD  STERN  NO
SEAWEEED  SIPHON
ERAL  SECRETBASE
ETURE  TAPAR  OMAR
DEIR  SLAT  XERID
  
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Typhoon toll may rise to 1,000 in Philippines

SURIGAO, Philippines, (Agencies) — Three hundred people are now known to have died in a powerful typhoon which swept across the southern and central Philippines during the weekend and the death toll may rise to 1,000, a government official said Monday.

Vice-Governor Salvador Siring of Surigao del Norte province told reporters: "At least 1,000 people may have died. This is the worst typhoon ever to hit this area."

The mayor of Surigao, Constantino Navarro, said at least 82 people had died in Surigao City alone and some 300 others were missing.

An army commander said some 200 people had died in the nearby municipality of Mainit.

The vice-governor said communications between his province and the rest of the country had been totally disrupted and his estimate of the eventual death toll was based on initial reports from the worst affected areas.

A group of reporters who visited the town of Surigao, which has a population of 125,000, found scenes of widespread devastation Monday.

Typhoon Ike, which at its peak gusts at 275 kilometres per hour,

damaged or destroyed nearly 90 per cent of the houses in central Surigao.

Telephone poles lay twisted across the streets and houses were reduced to rubble. Roofs of most buildings had been blown away.

Uprooted trees and powerlines littered the streets. The town has been without drinking water and electricity since Saturday night when Ike — the most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines in 14 years — swept in from the Pacific.

The typhoon left a trail of destruction on Mindanao Island, Cebu, the country's second city, and on Negros Island in the heartland of the sugar-growing industry.

Dozens of small boats and fishing vessels were smashed or sunk as the typhoon lashed high seas into harbours and low-lying coastal communities.

In a message to a government

relief agency, Governor Navarro said 22 people died, 21 were hurt and several were missing on nearby Nonoc Island. He appealed for food, water and medicine.

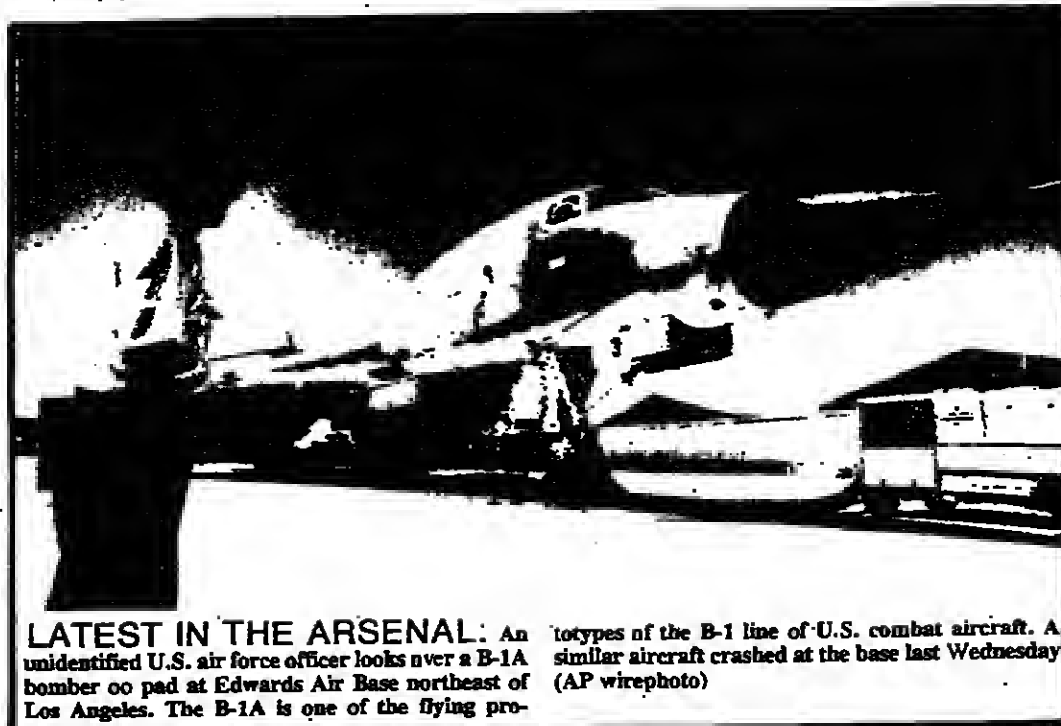
Northeast Mindanao bore the brunt of the storm as it moved in from the Pacific on Saturday. Samar and Leyte islands were also feared to have suffered but communications with the two provinces were interrupted.

The weather department said Ike was moving towards the South China Sea between Mindoro and Palawan islands, 320 kilometres south of Manila.

Cebu City and neighbouring towns were without water and electricity as power lines were down. Many major roads were impassable, provincial officials said.

At least three people were killed, 15 injured and hundreds made homeless in Negros Occidental Province. Officials said wide areas of cropland were under water and they estimated damage in millions of pesos.

They said the Philippine sugar commission was trying to find out how badly plantations were damaged. But they said it was impossible to make an accurate assessment before floodwater receded and the weather improved.



LATEST IN THE ARSENAL: An unidentified U.S. air force officer looks over a B-1A bomber on pad at Edwards Air Base northeast of Los Angeles. The B-1A is one of the flying prototypes of the B-1 line of U.S. combat aircraft. A similar aircraft crashed at the base last Wednesday (AP wirephoto)

S. Africans, blacks stage violent protests

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Crowds of black demonstrators stoned and set fire to cars, buses and shops Monday, killing two people, and several policemen and rioters were wounded in clashes south of Johannesburg, police said.

Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to quell the demonstrations in Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Evaton Black townships about 75 kilometres south of Johannesburg, said spokesman L. Henry Beek at police headquarters in Pretoria. Trouble also had flared in the area Sunday night.

Black residents of the townships had called for a one-day boycott of work and schools Monday to protest rent increases announced last week.

There were unconfirmed reports that one of those killed was a member of the black local council. Lt. Beek said several people were injured "in countermeasures taken by the South African police and other private individuals acting in self-defence."

Rising unemployment among blacks at a time of 12.4 per cent inflation have fuelled tensions in black townships in recent weeks.

Sporadic protests have broken out in a number of areas east and south of Johannesburg, leaving at least nine dead since late July, including Monday's victims.

The black majority of nearly 22 million remains excluded from national politics under a new constitution that took effect Monday. The system creates new members of parliament for the Asian and mixed-race minorities to sit alongside the existing white chamber, but blacks are considered citizens of tribal homelands with political rights there rather than in South Africa itself.

India begins interrogation of hijackers

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The Indian government on Monday began interrogating seven Sikh hijackers who were extradited to India from the United Arab Emirates after the United States rejected their request for political asylum.

They arrived in New Delhi early Monday morning in a chartered Boeing 707 from Dubai and were immediately taken to an undisclosed location for interrogation by India's intelligence police before being put on trial.

No date for the court was scheduled, officials said. The government has said the hijackers would receive a "fair trial... however despicable their crime may be."

The U.S. embassy issued a statement saying that the Indian government had guaranteed the hijackers would not be sentenced to death.

The United States turned down the hijackers' request for asylum because the "policy of the U.S. government is firmly to resist any concessions to terrorists in the conviction that such concessions only serve to further terrorist activity," the statement said.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian government. The maximum penalty a hijacker can receive is life imprisonment if no violence is involved.

The U.S. election season officially opened Monday, although candidates have been campaigning for months. Mr. Reagan started his bid for re-election in California's Orange County, a staunchly Republican area of his home state.

S. Lankan lawyers stage protest

Colombo (R) — Lawyers in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province Monday boycotted courts in protest against the alleged harassment of minority Tamils by the security forces.

Court officials said a number of cases in the northern provincial capital of Jaffna and at nearby Mullakam had been postponed because of the boycott.

A spokesman for the lawyers accused the security forces of harassing innocent people and damaging their property in the campaign against separatist guerrillas. The number of lawyers involved

in the boycott was not immediately known but residents in the north told Reuters by telephone that about 150 had stayed away.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali said Sunday the government was inquiring into allegations that several civilians were killed and shops were set ablaze by police in the northern town of Pedro on Saturday.

Residents said police were taking revenge for the killing of four of their colleagues in a guerrilla ambush near point Pedro the same day. They charged that more shops were burned Sunday.

U.S. says nothing new in Chernenko's statement

IRVINE, California (R) — The White House said Sunday it saw nothing new in Soviet leader Constantine Chernenko's statement that an agreement on banning weapons in space could lead to other disarmament discussions.

"The official view of the statement is it does not seem to go beyond Soviet policy statements in the past," spokesman Larry Speakes said. But he added: "We'll look at it carefully."

Mr. Chernenko was quoted in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda as repeating the Soviet position that the United States was stalling on space weapons talks by insisting on also raising the issue of suspended nuclear weapons negotiations.

He said: "Such an agreement would not only prevent the arms race in outer space, but what is no less important, would facilitate the solution of questions of limiting and reducing other strategic armaments."

Moscow proposed on June 29 that the two sides should meet in Vienna later this month. Washington responded positively, but called for the inclusion of talks on nuclear weapons.

"We have said yes to going to Vienna to talk with the Soviet Union on anti-satellite weapons. We don't know why the Soviets can't accept yes for an answer," Mr. Speakes said.

He said the United States still wanted to go to Vienna. "We're not going through the charade of talking to an empty chair. But we're prepared to go there," he told reporters travelling on Air Force One with President Reagan.

The U.S. election season officially opened Monday, although candidates have been campaigning for months. Mr. Reagan started his bid for re-election in California's Orange County, a staunchly Republican area of his home state.

120 dead or missing in S. Korean floods

SEOUL, (R) — At least 120 people were dead or missing Monday as South Korean authorities carried out a massive cleanup operation after three days of torrential rains and floods.

The anti-disaster office said the known death toll had reached 83 with 37 missing and almost 100,000 people made homeless.

Property damage was put at more than \$6 million, but this did not include damage to rice crops, due to be harvested in two weeks' time.

Officials said about 66,000 acres (26,000 hectares) of crops and farmland were under water.

The downpours started after dark on Friday night. Thousands of people in Seoul and north of the capital awoke to find flood waters pouring through their homes.

U.S. Air Force helicopters joined South Korean forces in rescue operations, plucking people from the roofs of farm and village houses as rain-swollen rivers and streams burst their banks.

Thousands of soldiers and police joined villagers in shoring up operations and repairing roads.

Police evacuated more than 50,000 people living near the Han River which flows through the centre of Seoul. Five of 13 bridges across the Han were closed.

Seoul was struggling back to normal Monday after the rains eased off Sunday. Water levels in the Han River began to subside and storm warnings were lifted in most areas.

But officials said the search was continuing for people unaccounted for in landslides and collapsed buildings.

3 Pakistanis flogged for sex, drug crimes

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Three men were publicly flogged Sunday on the orders of military courts for sex and drug crimes. About 2,000 people watched in silence at a sports stadium as one of the convicts received 10 lashes for drug trafficking. The other two were given five lashes each for assaulting a woman. The flogging of another man convicted of assaulting a woman fixed for Sunday was postponed on medical grounds, jail officials said.

Soviets say Lennon's death made businessmen rich

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Beatles fans were told Sunday that John Lennon's death was a windfall for the Capitalist businessmen of New York who were rushing to cash in on a human tragedy. In an article Dollars At Any Price the newspaper Soviet Russia described the late Beatle as a "talented singer, poet and fighter for peace," whose murder four years ago had been used by businessmen for their own enrichment. Lennon's anti-establishment stance and frequent clashes with authority in the West brought him belated official approval in the Soviet Union where, especially since his death, he has been depicted in glowing terms. Soviet Russia said Sunday Lennon's business managers and acquaintances were becoming rich on the profits of his work and even his killer was planning to issue a book of memoirs.

Richard Strauss' last song discovered

LONDON (R) — An unpublished and unperformed song by German composer Richard Strauss has been discovered after his family presumed it had been lost for years, the London Times said. Strauss composed the song "Malven," his last work, in 1949, 11 months before his death at the age of 84. He gave it to Czech soprano Maria Jerizta, once a celebrated Salome in his opera of that name. The Times said the song, "a major musical discovery," would be sold at Sotheby's Auction House in New York in December as part of the estate of Jerizta, who died there last year aged 96 leaving no heirs.

Chinese feminists oppose heavy manual labour for women

PEKING (R) — The Chinese Women's Federation has spoken out against heavy manual labour for women after years of toiling to prove their equality with men, the China Daily reported. "We used to say that whatever men can do, women can do too," Federation Vice-Chairwoman Zhang Guoying told the English-language paper. "But we have come to realise that heavy manual work does women harm." Women in China are widely employed in construction, loading and similar physically-demanding jobs.

Peking hotel woos wealthy peasants

PEKING (R) — Peking's luxurious New Great Wall International Hotel is wooing wealthy Chinese peasants as possible guests, the China News Service reported. The semi-official service quoted Li Baohua, the hotel's secretary, saying that peasants earning above 10,000 yuan (\$4,200) a year were welcome to take rooms and eat there. One night at the hotel costs about \$220, more than most of China's 800 million peasants earn in a year.

Cat bite leaves woman with \$34,500 damage bill

WUPPERTAL, West Germany (R) — A 56-year-old woman faces a bill for 100,000 marks (\$34,500) in damages after her cat bit her, police said Monday. The cat was left in the woman's car while she went shopping. When she returned it bit her arm as she drove off. The woman lost control, rammed a parked car and demolished a sausage stand, which dragged a fish-frying stand down with it, burning an assistant with boiling fat. A 21-year-old passer-by fainted and the woman's car was a write-off. A police spokeswoman said a police officer drove her — and the cat — home.

Ice chunk disrupts space shuttle flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — U.S. space experts worked through the night trying to find a way to get rid of a big icicle discovered on the exterior of the space shuttle Discovery Sunday.

"It's at the 'concern' state right now," Flight Director John Cox told reporters after the six astronauts went to sleep following their fourth day in space.

Mr. Cox said the main concern about the 45 centimetre chunk of ice on the left side of Discovery was that, if it remained there, it could become dislodged and strike another part of the spaceship, especially during the return to Earth.

"It's a concern because people don't understand it and don't know what damage could occur,"

he said.

He added that shuttle managers believed something similar happened on a previous mission, when the dome-like cover over the orbiter's rocket engines was damaged by what was officially listed as an unknown object.

The ice crystal formed when the astronauts dumped waste water through a valve outside the crew quarters in the forward section of the shuttle. The valve is now covered in ice.

Mr. Cox said the experts did not know exactly what caused the crystal to form, but they theorised that similar icicles could have developed on previous flights but went undetected.

Australian police fear reprisals after gunbattles between motorcycle gangs

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police laid charged Monday against 28 members of two feuding motorcycle gangs after a bloody gun battle in a Sydney hotel carpark Sunday in which seven people were killed and 21 injured.

Police, who collected a huge haul of weapons after the shooting, said they feared revenge murders by the rival gangs, "the Banditos" and "the Comancheros."

Ten of those critically injured were in two hospitals with armed police keeping a round-the-clock vigil, a hospital spokesman said.

The dead, all from the city's western suburbs, included a 14-year-old girl selling rifle tickets who took the full brunt of a shotgun blast in the face when the battle erupted at the Viking Hotel in Murrumbidgee.

Two Banditos and four Comancheros were killed, including three Comanchero leaders. Their president, John Ross, was among the badly injured, according to a gang member.

Police later questioned more than 200 people and charged members of both gangs with offences including making an affray and discharging firearms. No murder charges were laid.

The policeman in charge of investigating the killings said there were fears of a repeat of the battle.

"We don't want to create any apprehension but we certainly have to look that there might be further reprisals," Detective Inspector Ron Stephenson told a press conference.

The rival gangs publicly accused each other of starting the battle.

which witnesses said lasted nearly an hour with gang members using pump action shotguns, baseball bats, spanners, chains, knives and machetes.

Vanessa Ross, wife of the Comancheros president, said the Banditos had planned the attack knowing the gang would be at the hotel for a regular exchange of motorcycle parts.

She told a newspaper a feud had been raging between Sydney's two leading motorcycle gangs for the past two weeks, exploding after a power struggle late last year in which the Banditos left to form their own group.

A member of the Banditos, who asked not to be named, said the Comancheros opened fire as soon as about 40 members of the Banditos rode up to the hotel.

Scotland Yard probes mysterious disappearance of Nigerian airlines chief

LONDON (AP) — Scotland Yard said Sunday it was investigating reports that the head of Nigeria Airways, wanted in connection with the crate-kidnapping of former Nigerian politician Umaru Dikko, fled London either in a diplomatic crate or on a scheduled flight.

But investigators have no evidence so far of a departure by Capt. Bernard Bamfa, director of the state-owned airline, who was in Britain when Mr. Dikko was abducted July 5. A Nigerian and two Israelis were also being sought in the case a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

In his first interview since the abduction, Mr. Dikko told the Sunday Times that he had been warned many times his life might be in danger, "but I had to live. I had to go out."

Nigeria's military government, headed by Maj.-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, has accused Mr. Dikko of plundering millions of dollars from state coffers.

The Sunday Observer quoted diplomatic sources as saying Capt. Bamfa fled to Lagos a week ago on a first-class Alitalia flight from Rome. The paper said it did not know how he reached Rome, but suggested it would have been far easier for him to cross to the continent first rather than fly home directly from London.

The Times of London and the British Broadcasting Corporation reported Saturday that Capt. Bamfa escaped through London's

Heathrow airport in a crate labelled "diplomatic baggage" — the method used in the aborted attempt to take Mr. Dikko back to Nigeria.

Opposition Labour Party legislator Gerald Kaufman has demanded an urgent inquiry into Capt. Bamfa's alleged flight. The Times reported he was back at home in the Lagos suburb of Ikeja last week under police guard.

Three Israelis and a Nigerian are awaiting trial in London on charges of kidnapping and drugging Mr. Dikko, a minister in the ousted civilian government of President Shehu Shagari and an outspoken opponent of Nigeria's current military regime.

Capt. Bamfa, who became managing director of Nigeria Airways shortly after the Dec. 31 coup, was in Britain when Mr. Dikko was found drugged inside a cargo plane with diplomatic labels at Stansted airport. The crate was about to be loaded on a Nigeria Airways flight to Lagos.

The Scotland Yard spokesman, who was not identified in keeping with British custom, refused to name the other Nigerian and two Israelis who are being sought in the Dikko case.

Zia proposes Islamic arms industry

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq was quoted in a press interview Monday as saying that a proposal to set up a joint arms industry of Islamic countries was being discussed.

In his interview with the monthly Pakistani journal Urdu Digest, circulated by the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) News Agency, Gen. Zia did not specify the countries involved in the discussions. But Pakistan is a member of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which is aimed mainly at forging political and economic cooperation.

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Mondale says Reagan blurred historical church-state division

NEW YORK (R) — Walter Mondale has accused President Reagan of blurring an historic division between church and state as he prepared to launch the final phase of his underdog campaign for the White House with a Labour Day parade in New York City Monday.

In his strongest remarks on what is emerging as an issue in the 1984 campaign, Mr. Mondale said Sunday that Republicans at their national convention in Dallas "raised doubts whether they respect the wall our founders placed between government and religion."

In his weekly paid political radio broadcast in Minneapolis, Mr. Mondale said, "No matter what they said in Dallas, government must not be permitted to dictate the religious life of our people."

"If that force is unleashed, it will corrupt our faith and divide our nation. That future is not the American way," he said.

At a prayer breakfast with fundamentalist supporters during the convention, Mr. Reagan said those who insist on keeping religion ent-

irely out of politics are "intolerant of religion."

"Religion and politics are necessarily related," he added.

The Labour Day holiday is the traditional start of campaigning in the United States and after flying in to New York from Minneapolis Sunday night, Mr. Mondale and his family had dinner with Democratic vice-presidential running mate Geraldine Ferraro and her husband John Zaccaro.

After marching in the New York Labour Day parade Monday, the two candidates were to fly to Merrill, Wisconsin, for a small town version of the New York tradition, and end the day in Long Beach, California.

Mr. Mondale was expected to stress the theme that "hard work gains results" during his Labour Day appearances, Mondale aide Don Foley said.

Although Mr. Mondale is trailing Mr. Reagan badly in the polls, the cross-country kickoff of the 1984 campaign's crucial final phase aims to show that Mr. Mondale is prepared to challenge Mr. Reagan everywhere.

Turner insists he can form government despite Mulroney's lead

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister John Turner insisted Sunday he still expects to win this week's election, despite polls showing his Liberal Party more than 20 points behind the Progressive Conservatives of Brian Mulroney.

"I really do," Mr. Turner said in a television interview. "I'm confident on Tuesday that we will still form a government."

The final Gallup poll of the campaign found Mr. Mulroney's Tories favoured by 50 per cent of decided voters for the Tuesday election, with 28 per cent for the Liberals and 21 per cent for the left-wing New Democrats. The

figures were rounded off. Several other surveys showed similar results.

There are reports that Mr. Mulroney has even picked the day he would like to be sworn in — Sept. 17. That would be just in time to greet Pope John Paul II, who is making Ottawa the last stop on his 12-day Canadian tour.

Mr. Turner was spending the last two days of the campaign in the Vancouver district, where he is trying to win a seat in Parliament. "I am confident that Canadians will vote on the issue that counts — jobs, futures, how this country's going to be run," he said on a CTV

television programme. Mr. Mulroney, finishing the campaign in his native Quebec, where the Liberals won 74 of 75 seats in the 1980 election, told an audience Saturday in Montreal, "The Liberal fortress here is crumbling."

The Tory campaign in predominantly French-speaking Quebec has made rapid strides. Commentators who were saying less than a month ago that the Conservatives might be lucky to win six seats now say more than half the province may desert the Liberals.

Mr. Mulroney is seen as a certain winner in his northeastern Quebec district, even though the incumbent Liberal won by a huge margin last time.

Mr. Turner seemed headed for defeat in his own district as well as nationally.

In the final days of the campaign, the Liberals have tried to question Mr. Mulroney's credibility, mostly in television commercials.

One advertisement portrays Mulroney, who has made fun of the Liberals in his campaign speeches as the joker in a deck of playing cards, and suggests voters want something more substantial.

Another hints Mr. Mulroney would sell out Canada's oil to multinational corporations and asks, "Can you trust Brian Mulroney?"

The Tory advertisements have been more subtle in needing Mr. Turner's failings. One plays on the often-stated idea that Mr. Turner's style is old-fashioned and says, "Brian Mulroney is the only leader with a new approach for the 1980s."

The New Democrats have portrayed themselves as the spokesmen for "ordinary Canadians" without pretending they have a chance to form the government.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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SECOND HAND HIGH!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

AK3

986

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